



A New Tradition: Santa Arrives By Helicopter : Page 11

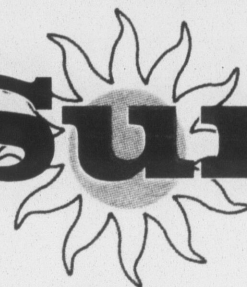
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The Quincy Sun



Historic Quincy's Hometown Weekly Newspaper Since 1968

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Thursday, December 9, 2021

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*Celebrating
The Season*



TURNING ON THE LIGHTS ceremony at Hancock-Adams Common Nov. 26 drew several thousand people of all ages. Here one of the two Christmas trees shows a holiday glow after the lights were illuminated. In the foreground is the water fountain at the common which was still operating for the ceremony but has since been shut down for the winter season.

Quincy Sun Photo/Robert Bosworth



RABBI, DR. ALFRED BENJAMIN (right), Congregation Beth Shalom of the Blue Hills, was the featured speaker at a Chanukah ceremony Dec. 2 at the Hancock-Adams Common. At left is Mayor Tom Koch who holds an umbrella for Rabbi Benjamin as a light drizzle fell during the ceremony. Dec. 2 marked the fifth day of Chanukah or "The Festival of Lights." A brief ceremony was also held Sunday, Nov. 28 - the first day of the eight-day celebration. The rabbi could not attend the Nov. 28th ceremony so a second event was held Dec. 2. Here Rabbi Benjamin sings one of several songs celebrating Chanukah after illuminating the fifth light on the Menorah, a seven-branched candelabrum (background). Chanukah is the Jewish eight-day, wintertime "festival of lights," celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, traditional foods, games and gifts. Other photos on Page 35.

Quincy Sun Photo/Robert Bosworth



ANOTHER GREAT CROWD was on hand for the 68th annual Quincy Christmas Parade Nov. 28. Here healthcare workers and volunteers from Manet Community Health Center and the Quincy Health Department wave to parade goers. They were honored as the parade's grand marshal for all their work and service during the pandemic. The Grand Marshal Float won the George White Award for Best Quincy Commercial Float. More parade photos on Page 18 and Page 19.

Quincy Sun photo/Tom Gorman

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Koch: No Vaccine, Mask Mandates - Page 16
Revised Ward, Precinct Map Approved - Page 17

More Quincy news:
The Quincy Sun.com





A CEREMONY marking the beginning of Chanukah was held Nov. 28. North Quincy resident Barry Rabinovitz (left) lit the first light of the menorah at the Hancock Adams Common and led the participants in the prayers for the first night of Chanukah. With him is Mayor Thomas Koch.
Photo Courtesy Angela Ponte



KETTLE KIDS – Kate and Andrew Kelly help fill the Salvation Army Red Kettle by dropping in a donation at the Community Leader kettle at the Hancock-Adams Common Dec. 1. The kettle is manned by community leaders who volunteer for one-hour shifts. The kettle was also set up at the common on Dec. 8. This is the 25th annual community leader kettle that was started by the late Henry Bosworth, founder and longtime publisher of The Quincy Sun. To date, the kettle has raised more than \$1130,000 for the Salvation Army's mission of helping the less fortunate and needy in the community.
Quincy Sun Photo/Robert Bosworth

Tree Lighting Ceremony Saturday At Flags For Veterans Island

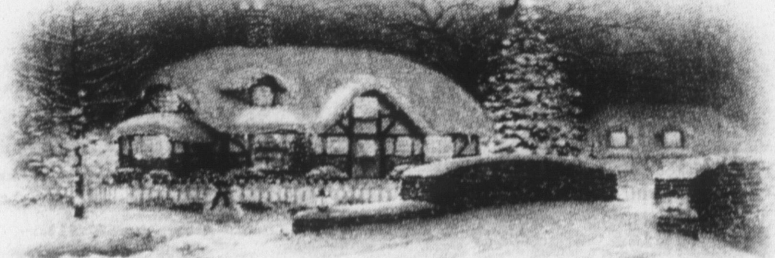
The Sons of The American Legion, Squadron 294, Morrisette Legion Post, will hold its annual Tree Lighting ceremony Saturday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. at Flags for

Veterans Island, School and Pleasant Streets, Quincy.

This year's ceremony will be dedicated in memory of the late Larry Norton and the late John "Butch"

Mahoney. Mr. Norton and Mr. Mahoney were both veterans and for many years served many veterans' causes. They passed away in 2020.

Quincy Choral Society and Orchestra Sarah Labrie, Music Director present Somewhere in My Memory



"Somewhere in My Memory" concert will celebrate the "familiar" of the holidays: everything we love about the warmth, love, traditions, and music of the season.

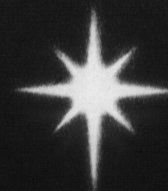
Sunday, December 12, 2021 ~ 4:00 p.m.
St. Mary of the Hills
29 St. Mary's Road, Milton, MA 02186
Tickets \$20

For further information, contact us at www.quincychoral.org
or 508-612-0762 ~ Like us on Facebook

Saint J's Collaborative's Live Nativity

Join the Saint J's Parish Family, along with Father Joseph Boaso, Father Matt Williams, Father Tom DiLorenzo and REAL LIVE people and ANIMALS on Saint John's Lawn for our Live Nativity. There will be prayer, song, reflection and JOYful contemplation of the incarnation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Invite your family and friends for prayer, hot chocolate, caroling all followed by a Christmas Movie if you choose to stay (see full list of events on our "Adventurous Advent" Flier).

**On Saturday, Dec. 12th, & 18th - Sunday, Dec 5th & 19th
And Sunday, Jan. 2nd**



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QPS To Hire Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator

By SCOTT JACKSON

The Quincy Public Schools plan to hire an equity, diversity and inclusion coordinator in response to incidents within the school system that led students to walk out of class last month to protest racism and hate speech.

Supt. Kevin Mulvey and his staff announced plans to create the new position for the equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI or also DEI) coordinator during a special meeting of the School Committee on Dec. 1. The new EDI coordinator would be a member of the superintendent's leadership team.

The special meeting was held after a series of incidents within the school system during the month of November. On Nov. 5, students at Quincy High School created a song naming students from North Quincy High School that used racist and sexualized language, the superintendent said. On Nov. 9, there was a physical altercation between Quincy High School students that was initiated because of a video with racist hate

speech one of the students had made. On Nov. 12, a student at Point Webster Middle School was recorded by another student using racist language to describe two other students.

The incidents at the high schools helped lead students at Quincy High School to walk out of classes the morning of Nov. 12 to protest racism and hate speech. They walked to North Quincy High School as part of the protest and were joined there by students from North. Many of the students then returned to Quincy High where they spoke with administrators, including Mulvey.

In the weeks that followed those incidents, Mulvey said the district held multiple staff meetings, in-person and virtual forums for parents, student forums at both high schools, community circles within classrooms, student and staff EDI meetings, meetings with Citywide EDI school representatives, and consulted with state education officials.

The superintendent said

the district is taking concerns raised by students and other stakeholders seriously and is moving as quickly, as

efficiently and effectively as possible to address them.

"We are determined to make a difference," Mul-

vey told the School Committee Dec. 1. "We heard the concerns of the students certainly during the time of

the walk out. We heard the concerns of students and parents and community

Cont'd On Page 11



SAINT NICK PICS - Children wait their turn to have their picture taken with Santa after the Jolly Old Elf's arrival at Pageant Field Nov. 27. More photos on Page 6. Quincy Sun photo/Tom Gorman

Wollaston Beach Friends Toy Drive, Open House Dec. 9

The public is invited to join the Friends of Wollaston Beach on Thursday, Dec. 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Hancock Tavern, 668 Hancock St., Wollaston, for the FWB Dick Herbert Memorial Toy Drive and Holiday Open House.

Last year, while unable to meet in person due to COVID-19, FWB members and friends kept the tradition alive by making their donations directly to Interfaith Social Services.

For 2021, FWB invites members and the public to stop by and drop off new, unwrapped toys to be distributed to needy children through Interfaith Social Services.

Don't have time to shop? No problem. Gift cards and monetary donations are also appreciated. Checks can be dropped off at the Open House (or at Interfaith, 105 Adams St., Quincy), made

payable to Interfaith Social Services with Friends of Wollaston Beach in the memo section. Enjoy a slice of pizza and engage in some quality time and good conversation.

For further information, contact FWB President Maureen Mazrimas at 617-257-8295 or by email at FriendsWollastonBeach@gmail.com - or visit the FWB website at FriendsOfWollastonBeach.net.

"We hope to see you Dec. 9 to renew old acquaintances, get in the holiday spirit and help put a smile on the face of a child and his/her extended family. Happy Holidays!" said FWB President Maureen Mazrimas.

The Friends of Wollaston Beach is an organization promoting public use of Wollaston Beach, preserving and protecting the fragile ecosystems, and addressing the quality of life issues relating to the Beach.

Homeowners with equity: Roll all your debt into one new loan

You have a mortgage. And a good amount of equity. You also have other debts you would love to combine into one loan at today's low rates. That's what you get with a 30-Year Consolidation Mortgage from Colonial Federal Savings Bank. Some people like this idea because it makes life simple and streamlined. For others, it's a fresh start and a real weight off their back. Is it right for you? It's easy to find out. Call Angela Blanchard, Vice President/Retail Lending, at 617-376-3500 or apply online at colonialfed.com. (Other loan lengths are available. Please ask!) **Colonial Federal, a bank with ideas.**



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ONLINE: colonialfed.com

Some additional facts: Rate/Annual Percentage Rate (APR) effective as of 12/1/21 and may change. Applies to 1-4 family owner-occupied homes. Assumes a maximum 80% loan-to-value and first mortgage position. Subject to credit approval. A 30-Year Loan would be repaid in 360 equal monthly principal plus interest payments of \$4.08 per \$1000 borrowed, which do not include taxes or insurance premiums, if applicable. So your actual monthly payment will be greater. NMLS #409557



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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Dec. 25, 1776, Gen. George Washington crosses the Delaware River with 5,400 Patriot troops, hoping to surprise a Hessian force celebrating Christmas at their winter quarters in Trenton, New Jersey. Washington's men quickly overwhelmed the German defenders, who were groggy from the previous evening's festivities, and by morning the town was surrounded.

• On Dec. 21, 1891, James Naismith introduces the game of basketball as an activity for bored and unruly students during difficult New England winters. Based on rules he created, the game was tested by 18 students at the International Young Men's Christian Association Training School in Massachusetts.

• On Dec. 22, 1956, a baby gorilla enters the world at the Columbus Zoo in Ohio, becoming the first gorilla born in captivity. Colo went on to become a mother, grandmother and a great-grandmother to Timu, the first surviving infant gorilla conceived by artificial insemination. Colo died in 2017 at the age of 60.

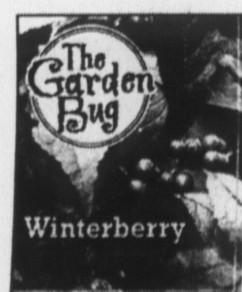
• On Dec. 26, 1966, Jimi Hendrix writes the lyrics to "Purple Haze," the song that would give him his breakthrough hit. Rolling Stone magazine would later name "Purple Haze" one of the 100 Greatest Guitar Songs of All Time.

• On Dec. 23, 1982, the Missouri Department of Health informs residents of Times Beach that their town was contaminated when the chemical dioxin was sprayed on its unpaved roads. The entire town was evacuated and demolished.

• On Dec. 20, 1995, the United Nations peacekeeping force formally transfers military authority in Bosnia to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, clearing the way for deployment of some 60,000 NATO troops.

• On Dec. 24, 1979, the Soviet Union invades Afghanistan under the pretext of upholding the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Treaty of 1978. Despite fierce resistance from the Afghan army, it took the Soviets only a few days to secure the capital of Kabul.

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Winterberry

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) is a shrub native to eastern North America. It produces bright red berries that persist through winter and into spring. It thrives best in wetland areas with acidic soil, but will tolerate some other environments as long as its moisture needs are met and the soil is not too alkaline. With the winterberry there are separate male and female plants. Because only fertilized

female plants will produce a wonderful display of berries, there must be at least one male winterberry plant for every 6-10 female shrubs in the area to allow for cross-pollination. - Brenda Weaver
Source: www.thepurple.com

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AARP Monthly Fraud Watch Update

By CINDY CAMPBELL
Communications Director
AARP Massachusetts

Did you know that someone's identity gets stolen every two seconds?

The AARP Fraud Watch Network provides you with tips and resources to help you spot and avoid identity theft and fraud so you can protect yourself and your family. Our watchdog alerts will keep you up to date on con artists' latest tricks. It's free of charge for everyone: AARP members, non-members, and people of all ages.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam. Report scams to local law enforcement.

Contact the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork for more information on fraud prevention.

SCAM ALERT #1:

Holiday Shopping Tip - Pick the Right Plastic

If you heed only one tip this holiday shopping season, make it this one: pick the right plastic. A recent AARP survey found that nearly 70% of people shopping online this holiday season plan to pay with a debit card. Choosing this form of payment can make you more vulnerable to fraud losses.

Debit cards deduct money directly from the account it's connected to. If your card is compromised and the thief goes on a spending spree, the money drained from your account is YOUR money. When you use a credit card and it's compromised, the thief isn't spending money from your account but rather from the credit your bank has provided.

Both cards are governed by consumer protections - but there's a "but". When your credit card is used fraudulently, the issuing credit company will absorb the losses from the shopping spree the thief enjoys. Your costs may be limited to \$50, but most issuers waive that.

When your debit card is compromised, your money is gone until you report it and the bank completes an investigation, which could take several weeks. If you're relying on that account to pay your rent or mortgage, that delay can put you in a real bind. And if you fail to report the fraud within 60 days, you may not have any recourse to recover your losses at all. In other words, it's usually harder to get your money back from the scammer with a debit account.

When shopping online this holiday season do yourself, and your bank account, a favor and leave the debit card in your wallet.

SCAM ALERT #2:

Gift Card Shopping Tips

Most US consumers will purchase a gift card for someone this holiday season. While these gifts are easy to give and popular to get, they are also open to fraud. A 2021 AARP survey found that one in five people have either given or received a gift card with no funds on it.

Your best bet is to buy gift cards online directly from

The Naughty List: BBB's 12 Scams Of Christmas

By BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

While 2021 is quickly winding down, scams targeting the public continue to cause trouble. Consumers should watch out for any fraudulent schemes aimed at swiping their cash and stealing personal information.

Better Business Bureau (BBB) has a Naughty List with the top 12 scams of Christmas that are most likely to catch consumers and donors off guard during this season.

Many of the scams on this list are facilitated through emails and social media platforms, however the latter is where most people are vulnerable. Exercise caution when coming across social media ads about discounted items, event promotions, job opportunities and donation requests, as well as direct messages from strangers. If you are asked to make a payment or donation by wire or e-transfer, through third parties, by prepaid debit or gift cards, treat this as a red flag.

Be mindful of these scams that could cut into your holiday cheer and our tips to avoid them:

1. Misleading Social Media Ads: As you scroll through your social media feed, you often see items for sale from a small business. Sometimes the business even claims to support a charity to try to get you to order, or they offer a free trial. BBB Scam Tracker receives reports of people paying for items that they never receive, getting charged monthly for a free trial they never signed up for, or receiving an item that is counterfeit or much different from the one advertised. The 2020 BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report found that online purchase scams were the most common cons reported to Scam Tracker and the category with the most victims. Do your homework and research the company before ordering. Check out the business profile on BBB.org and read the

reviews. Cards on store racks are easy prey for criminals, who can grab the cards, secretly record the numbers off the back and return the cards to the rack. Carefully inspect cards from the rack to look for signs the PIN has been exposed or manipulated.

And remember, if anyone asks you to pay a debt or obligation with a gift card, it's a scam.

SCAM ALERT #3:

Veterans Scams

Their time in service to protect our country is over. Now it's our turn to protect our veterans from scams. Veterans deserve our gratefulness, our respect and praise. Here's what they don't deserve: attempts to take advantage of their service. Yet every day, scammers attempt to defraud our veterans of their hard-earned benefits, steal their identity, or take their savings.

These frauds include seeking donations for fake charities claiming to serve our nation's veterans (always research before giving); targeting veterans with fake employment opportunities (it's a scam if you have to pay to get the job or provide sensitive personal information); and offers of free cash from little-known government grant programs (the federal government doesn't hand out grants to individuals).

SCAM ALERT #4:

When Elder Financial Abuse is in the Family

Federal data suggest that losses from elder financial abuse perpetrated by a known person are greater than when the fraud is perpetrated by anonymous scammers. With the holiday family visits upon us, it could be a good time to broach the subject. You might bring up the topic of financial exploitation and segue into asking what they are doing to protect themselves and their money. Above all, respect their right to make their own decisions while they are cognitively able, but leave the lines of communication open.

SCAM ALERT #5:

Stress Can Lead to Scams

As we wrap up a second year of pandemic-induced uncertainty and stress, it's important to recognize that in addition to making life harder, these factors actually can make us more susceptible to fraud. A recent AARP study found that victims of fraud experienced more than twice as many stressful events as those who avoided attempted scams.

Stressful events consume valuable cognitive capacity that otherwise might be employed to spot and resist fraud. Knowing this, criminals specifically look for ways to target people who may have lost a job, or recently became a widow, for example. Being aware that you or a loved one's stressful situation may make you or them susceptible to fraud may be the difference between staying safe or being victimized.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

The AARP Fraud Watch Network is a free resource for all. Learn how to proactively spot scams or get guidance if you've been targeted at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

reviews.

2. Social Media Gift Exchanges: Each holiday season this scheme pops back up, and this year is no different. A newer version of this scam revolves around exchanging bottles of wine; another suggests purchasing \$10 gifts online. Another twist asks you to submit your email into a list where participants get to pick a name and send money to strangers to "pay it forward." There is even a twist about "Secret Santa Dog" where you buy a \$10 gift for your "secret dog."

In all of these versions, participants unwittingly share their personal information, along with those of their family members and friends, and are further tricked into buying and shipping gifts or money to unknown individuals. And it's an illegal pyramid scheme.

3. Holiday Apps: Apple's App Store and Google Play list dozens of holiday-themed apps where children can video chat live with Santa, light the menorah, watch Santa feed live reindeer, track his sleigh on Christmas Eve, or relay their holiday wish lists. This holiday season, like last year when COVID-19 caused children to skip the traditional in-person visit with Santa, apps may play a more important role than ever. Review privacy policies to see what information will be collected. Be wary of free apps, as they can sometimes contain more advertising than apps that require a nominal fee. Free apps can also contain malware.

4. Alerts About Compromised Accounts: BBB has been receiving reports on Scam Tracker about a con claiming your Amazon, PayPal, Netflix or bank account has been compromised. Victims receive an email, call, or text message which explains that there has been suspicious activity

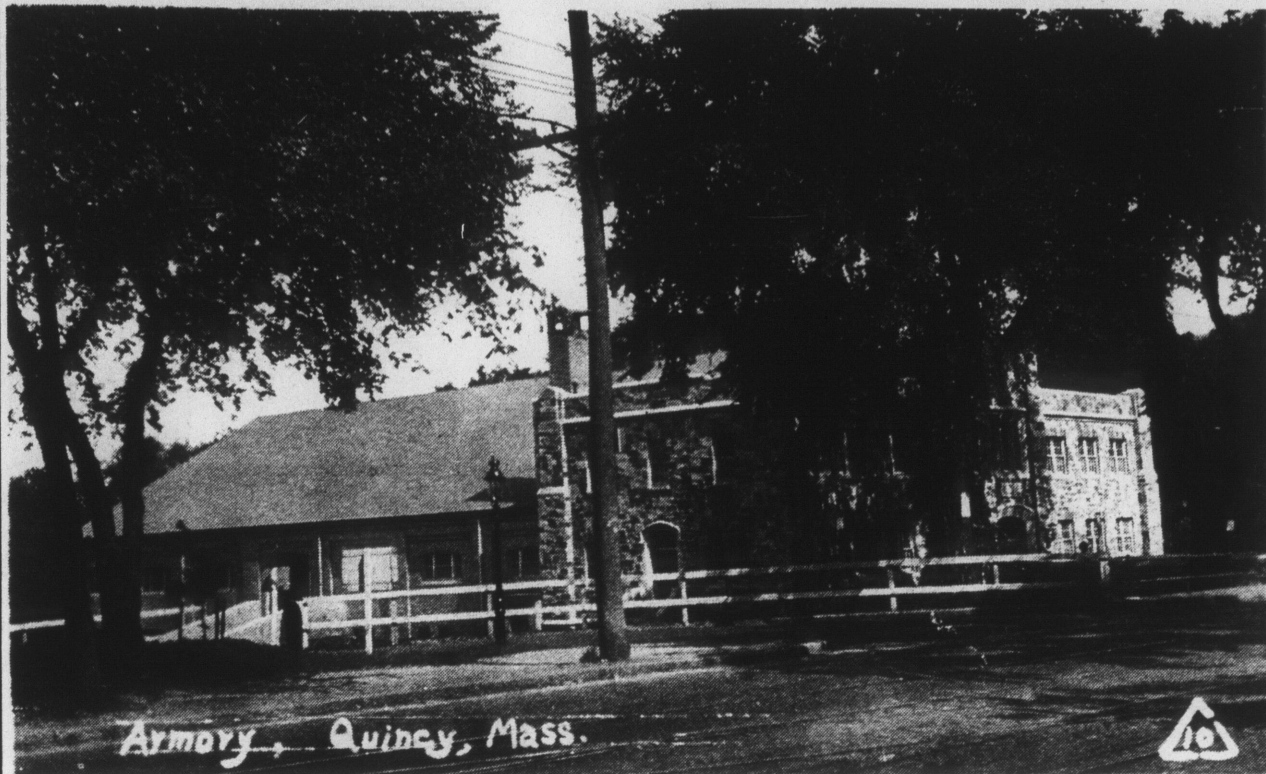
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Scenes From Yesterday



THIS REAL PHOTO postcard is a view of the Quincy Armory on Hancock Street just after it was built in 1924. Designed to resemble a fortress, it has mock towers on the corners and the front entrance; it even has a moat under the bridge from the roadway. The stone façade of the front portion of the building is Weymouth seam-faced granite that was widely used at the time for churches and civic buildings. Today, this remodeled National Guard armory is named for fallen Massachusetts National Guard soldier Sgt. Michael J. Kelley of Battery E., 101st Field Artillery Regiment. Sgt. Kelley, of Scituate, was

killed in action on June 8, 2005 at Camp Salerno, Shkin Province, Afghanistan, when Camp Salerno came under heavy fire during what was one of the harshest battles of the early stages of Operation Enduring Freedom. In the past, the building was used for driver license testing by the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Over the years the rear portion of the building has had many other community uses including as a dance hall for the city's high school proms and as a gymnasium for boxing and wrestling events.

From the Tom Galvin Postcard Collection

Quincy's Yesterdays

This Week
1980
41 Years Ago

Private Firm May Run Hospital Next Month

A private management firm could be operating City Hospital as early as next month, Mayor Arthur H. Tobin said.

"I hope to be able to announce early in January the name of the company that will take over administration of the hospital and run it for the city," said Tobin.

The mayor said that Hospital Director Anthony DeFalco has assured him that he will stay on and help with the transition from municipal to private management.

DeFalco disclosed that he plans to resign from the \$41,660 director's spot after the first of the year, a job to which former Mayor Joseph J. LaRaia appointed him in 1976.

"It is time for me to move on to something different," said DeFalco. "I never had any long-term aspirations to be a hospital director."

UNFUNDED PENSION LIABILITIES \$72 MILLION PROBLEM

City Auditor Charles L. Shea is setting up a series of meetings to discuss one of the city's biggest and unpublicized headaches—the \$72 million in unfunded pension liabilities that hangs over the municipal treasury.

Retirement pensions cost the city close to \$6 million in fiscal 1981. That's up \$1 million from last year. It is expected to rise by \$750,000 in fiscal 1982 when Proposition 2 ½ draws the financial noose a little tighter.

"What worries me is the constant increase in cost," said Shea, who is a member of the retirement system himself. "I wish there was some way we could stop the spiraling cost of pensions."

QUINCYISMS

Louis, a dog owned by Donald Sartori, owner of Louis Café, Sea St., Houghs Neck, became the first dog in the city to have his own street crossing sign. The sign says, "Caution," with a picture of Louis and Louis' Crossing. The sign allows Louis to cross Sea Street from Louis' Café to Finlay's Variety Store several times a day to pick up a box of cookies... James A. Erwin, Jr., plumbing inspector for the City of Quincy, announced that 156 plumbing permits were issued during November for work estimated to cost \$318,327, permit fees totaled \$2,728... Claus Gelotte, 1387 Hancock St., Quincy Center, was offering "Polaroid Print Savers Plus Cameras for \$84.80"... Barry's Deli, 21 Beale St., Wollaston, was offering "Party Platters Serving 10, For Prices Ranging from \$22.95 up"... A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Madden, 57 Narragansett Rd., Merrymount... Members of the Quincy Catholic Club held a fundraising "1920 Flapper Revue" at the Blue Hills Country Club. Club President Mary Boethel and he committee planned the event... Jason's Luggage and Music Shop, 1514 Hancock St., Quincy Center, was advertising "Luggage for your Honeymoon"... Sid's Formal Wear, 17 Quincy Ave., Quincy, was offering: "With Each Wedding of Six or More, Your Choice of a Free Tux or a Case of Champagne"... The Quincy Sun Sunbeams column was touting incumbent Arthur Tobin, Councillors Joseph LaRaia, Frank McCauley and Jim Sheets as possible candidates for mayor in 1981... Friends of the Thomas Crane Public Library will kick off their 1981 membership drive by making a donation to the library. Mrs. Nellie Sumner, Library Friends president, will present a check to Library Director Warren Watson to be used to purchase library books and materials... The senior choir of Faith Lutheran Church presented "Advent and Christmas in Song" at the church, 201 Granite St., Quincy Center... Six Quincy boys were performing with the Boston Archdiocesan Choir School in Christmas Concert. The boys, who are students of the school, included Robert Halloran, Stephen Kelly, Bernard Haugh, David Mann, Michael Cahaline and Patrick McDermott... Governor Edward King was to preside at groundbreaking ceremonies for the new \$5 million Quincy Mental Health Center. The 10-acre site is located at Quincy Ave and East Howard St., Quincy Point... Michael Costa of Squantum played Scrooge as a young man in The Company Theater Production of "Dickens: A Christmas Carol"... Koch Club Executive Director Richard J. Koch, Sr., announced that the Koch Club's 25th Annual Christmas Charity projects were underway. The organization annually provides toys, gifts and Christmas meals for hundreds of needy area residents... Trustees of the Thomas Crane Public Library voted to sell the abandoned West Quincy branch library for \$37,500 to Ross Noble who owns a sporting goods firm on adjoining land.

City Auditor O'Connor Reelected To New Term

By SCOTT JACKSON

City councillors recently reelected Susan O'Connor, the city's auditor for the past dozen years, to a new three-year term.

Councillors reelected O'Connor to her new term by voice vote during their meeting on Dec. 6.

Ward 3 Councillor Ian Cain nominated O'Connor for her new term during that evening's meeting. Cain called O'Connor a tremendous resource to the council.

"It's been my distinct pleasure to work with Susan over the last six years that I've served on the City Council. She's a friend to humans and animals alike, as evidenced by her sojourns to Aruba to rescue animals and obviously a person like that you can trust as much as I do with finances as I have over the last six years," Cain said.

"She is an immense resource to the City Council. She knows the ins and outs of not only the municipal finance function, but obviously the auditing the function, which go hand in hand, which is why I always ask to sit next to her because she has all the details relevant to the discussions at play during our City Council sessions and all the appropriations that go with it."

Ward 4 Councillor Brian Palmucci seconded the nomination. Palmucci said the council created the auditor's position during his first term in office and stated O'Connor, the only person to fill serve in that role, has been integral since she was first elected to the post.

"She's proven to be someone who is instrumental in us, the body, being able to keep our eyes on

the comings and goings of money and to be better representatives for the residents of Quincy," Palmucci said.

"I think it goes without saying that she is a competent and caring person. She really cares about the city, she cares about the work, the important work we do in government. She's been very helpful to me and I trust to all councillors behind the scenes. Whenever we have a question, Sue will follow up and get right back to you."

City Council President Nina Liang said O'Connor has helped her in her role as council president the last two years amid the pandemic.

"Professionally you have been an incredible mentor and a great friend," Liang said. "No matter what the question is, no matter what

time it is, you're always available to help.

"These last two years, as council president during a pandemic, it's been incredibly helpful to have you by my side in making decisions as to how we're meeting and when we're meeting, making sure that we're doing the best we can to all of our friends in the council office."

Following the councillors' vote, O'Connor said she would continue to look out for Quincy's taxpayers.

"I really appreciate your support, I enjoy working with every single one of you and I pledge every year that I am in this position that I am looking out for the best interest of the taxpayer and I look at things objectively," O'Connor said.

"If we all work together, then we can make Quincy a great place."

City Should Offer Teachers A Respectable Contract

I would like to commend Quincy Public School teacher Carol Austin on her very insightful and truthful Readers' Forum letter "Teachers Deserve a Fair Contract."

As a retired QPS teacher I can verify that Carol very accurately described the life of a teacher, and anyone who thinks otherwise has never stepped into a classroom and spent a day in front of 20-25 students of varied abilities, skill levels, and behaviors. Being a teacher 10 plus years ago was a challenging and rewarding profession. I shudder to think of the difficulties the dedicated and caring QPS teachers have had to deal with and continue to deal with in the face of the current pandemic.

When I began teaching in the early 70s, I was told that Quincy was in the top 10 cities and towns in Massachusetts for teacher salaries. That is hardly true today. To attract the best teachers to Quincy, the city needs to pay them a fair and decent wage.

This leads me to my simplistic view of how running

READERS FORUM

a city should be like running a family. Every good parent knows not every member of the family needs the same amount of attention or care at the same time. So, to always treat each city department the same is not fair to any of the departments. It's undeniable that our police and fire departments work hard and provide us with invaluable services and take excellent care of all city residents but considering all that we have recently asked of our teachers and to continue to attract top talent, now is the time to give them more attention and care.

The city needs to offer them a salary increase that shows they are a valued member of the city family. The city needs to negotiate in a respectful manner and offer them a respectable contract.

Linda Monaco
QPS 1971-2007

Santa Arrives By Helicopter For The Holidays



SANTA CLAUS arrived for the holidays this year in style - landing in a helicopter at Pageant Field Nov. 27. Here children wave to Santa after his arrival. Quincy Sun Photos/Tom Gorman



A HELICOPTER with Santa Claus aboard lands at Pageant Field. This marked the start of a new holiday tradition in Quincy. For many years Santa arrived by parachute but this year city officials opted to use a helicopter for the Jolly Old Elf's landing in Quincy.



COSTUMED CHARACTERS INCLUDING Snowmen were also on hand to greet children at Santa's arrival Nov. 27 at Pageant Field.



SANTA CLAUS greets youngsters and their parents at Pageant Field after arriving on a helicopter.



CHILDREN TELL Santa Claus their Christmas wishes.



SANTA CLAUS greets children after arriving on a helicopter at Pageant Field.



SANTA POSES with Quincy firefighters before riding on a fire truck through Quincy Center.



A YOUNGSTER and her grandmother check out the Grinch.

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U.S. Postal Service Introduces Pen Pal Project

The U.S. Postal Service is working with WeAreTeachers to introduce The USPS Pen Pal Project, a free educational program for students in grades three to five, this 2021-2022 school year.

The USPS Pen Pal Project will provide 25,000 classrooms across the country the opportunity to partner with matched classes to write 1 million letters with the goal of building friendships and understanding diverse perspectives.

Each participating classroom will receive a USPS Pen Pal Project kit with a

teaching poster, cards, and envelopes. By participating in the program, students will improve their writing, communication, and collaboration skills.

WeAreTeachers offers daily articles, videos and giveaways for educators.

U.S. public, charter, and private school teachers are invited to join The USPS Pen Pal Project. More information, including official rules and instructions for teachers to sign their classes up for the project, is available at WeAreTeachers.com.

'Cocktails & Candy Canes' Show Dec. 9, 10

The Common Market Restaurants, 97 Willard St., Quincy, announces its 2021 Christmas Show, "Cocktails & Candy Canes" - a Christmas Revue, set for Thursday, Dec. 9 and Friday, Dec. 10 at 8 p.m.

The performance fea-

tures Kirsten Hughes, Cynthia Krebs, Jackie Cleary and Whitney Lloyd.

For more information, call 617-773-9532, 617-472-9311 or 617-472-5492 or visit www.commonmarketrestaurants.com.

Eni Daci Peer Mentor At UVM

Eni Daci of Quincy, Class of 2023, is serving as a University of Vermont College of Nursing and Health Sciences peer mentor for the 2021-22 academic year.

Known as "LINKS," mentors provide first-year students with friendship, guidance and a connection to the UVM community.

Blandine Jean-Paul Joins Big Brothers Big Sisters Board

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts (BBBSEM), a one-to-one youth mentoring program, announces Blandine Jean-Paul, vice president of Brand and Marketing at Garden Remedies, to the nonprofit's Board of Directors.

Jean-Paul, 48, of Quincy, brings more than 20 years of marketing and media experience. At Garden Remedies, she leverages research and develops storylines and campaigns to help deepen the consumer brand experience. Previously, she worked in marketing and brand strategy for major companies, including Hardware & Lumber Limited, Smile Direct Club, Hasbro, The HEINEKEN Company, Diageo, ESPN and TV Guide. A quad-linguist, Jean-Paul has received numerous awards for her work, including the 2014 Leadership Award from the National Association for Multi-Ethnicity in Communications, the 2013 Executive Leadership Award from Women in Telecommunications & Cable and more. She holds a B.A. in Communications and Media from Boston College and M.B.A. in marketing and International Management from Northeastern University.

Growing up in Boston, life was difficult for the first-generation Haitian American. Prevalent racism



BLANDINE JEAN-PAUL

was hard to ignore as the city fought to stop bussing. Jean-Paul remembers protests outside of her school on the first day of kindergarten. Throughout her childhood, she was teased for her Caribbean accent. She credits the women in her family, her biggest mentors, for helping her to navigate and thrive in school. Her parents worked two sometimes three jobs to ensure her family had what they needed to survive and integrate into American culture.

"As my parents reminded me daily, education is the best way to combat racism and adversity and they were not wrong," says Jean-Paul, a proud mother of two young adults, ages 20 and 23. "This has shaped how I work and how I mentor others to achieve their goals. The wealth gap for minorities has continued to widen and without the support of strong mentors, this generation of children will have a much harder time

getting out of poverty. I am involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts because I want to be part of the solution."

BBBSEM Board of Directors commit to serving the organization over the course of two years. As a member, Jean-Paul will help to advance the agency's mission, service to children and impact. As a group, the Board establishes Agency policy and sets strategic goals, as well as provides leadership and counsel to staff for specifically identified strategic initiatives. Board members serve as enthusiastic goodwill ambassadors and actively advocate on behalf of the nonprofit.

"At the core of our mission are selfless and dedicated volunteers looking to make a difference, and we recruit thousands of Big Brothers or Big Sisters each year to reach the kids signed up to be matched," says Mark O'Donnell, president and CEO of BBBSEM. "A goal of our Board was to bring on a seasoned professional with marketing and branding expertise to assist the agency in these efforts and we are over-the-moon excited to welcome Blandine. Blandine will be

critical in scaling our ability to match kids in one-to-one meaningful and impactful relationships with their mentors. COVID has changed the way people communicate, their motivations, where they live and how they work. As our service to kids is needed now more than ever, we could not be more excited to have Blandine working alongside us as we navigate these times."

As part of the agency's Diversity Equity and Inclusion Roadmap, launched in January 2021, BBBSEM is focused on bridging differences, increasing representation from and amplifying the voices of underrepresented groups. Special focus has been put on increasing representation among staff, board members, Bigs, and corporate and community partners so as to highlight the growing diversity of the communities the nonprofit serves.

For more information about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts and to view a complete list of the Board of Advisors and Directors, visit www.emassbigs.org/about/leadership.

Movie Review: "Encanto"

By BOB GARVER

Disney has done it again. The studio synonymous with animated movie musicals has given us another classic to add to the collection in "Encanto." It's a good one, with diligent animation, imagination on display in nearly every frame, and songs by current Broadway king Lin-Manuel Miranda. It's such a well-polished movie that even though I know what I'm seeing is practically perfect, it's hard not to dwell on a few minor imperfections.

The movie centers around the magical Madrigal family, particularly teenager Mirabel (Stephanie Beatriz). Abuela Alma (Maria Cecilia Botero) lost her husband years ago, but was granted a miracle in the form of an enchanted candle that brought her house to life and gave superhuman abilities to her descendants. Now Mirabel's mother Julieta (Angie Cepeda) can heal any injury with her cooking, her aunt Pepa (Carolina Gaitan) can control the weather with her mood (usually in the form of rain, to avoid confusion with another Disney character with ice-based weather powers), her uncle Bruno (John Leguizamo)

can see into the future (but he's been exiled due to some upsetting prophecies), her cousin Dolores (Adassa) can hear everything - especially things she's not supposed to, her cousin Camilo (Rhenzy Feliz) is a shape-shifter, her cousin Antonio (Ravi Cabot Conyers) can communicate with animals, her sister Luisa (Jessica Darrow) is super-strong - both in physicality and resolve, and her other sister Isabela (Diane Guerrero) can grow plant life at will - though some say her real power is perfection. And again, the house itself is imbued with magic, with cupboards and floorboards that serve the family's every need. One of those imperfections I mentioned is that it seems like overkill to have both the characters and the house be magical. As fun as the house is, I feel like it should be the star of its own movie, here it feels like a hat on a hat.

Aside from her uncle Felix (Mauro Castillo) and father Agustin (Wilmer Valderrama), who were born to non-magical families, Mirabel is the only Madrigal without a special gift. She wants one - badly, and she was supposed to get one, but something went wrong (we

never find out what, exactly) at her gift-granting ceremony, and now she feels like she's less gifted than everyone else. Think there'll be a lesson in here about how you don't need magical powers to be truly gifted? Plus she still gets to interact with the house, which as far as I'm concerned is like having magic of her own.

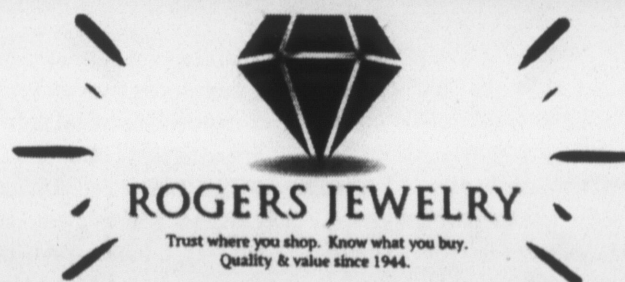
The problem is that the magic of the house is on the fritz and in danger of disappearing. Mirabel wants to save it to prove her worth, but how does she save something so intangible? The answer likely lies with her ostracized uncle Bruno, but the rest of the family is so creeped out by him that he's practically considered a villain. If Mirabel wants to save the magic, she'll have to do something with Bruno and the rest of her family that is way out of everybody's comfort zone... communicate with them.

For all its eye and ear candy, "Encanto" is a movie where a lot of drama could have been spared with a few well-chosen words and previous hugs. It also plays a little too blatantly to certain Disney tropes, especially with that MacGuffin-y candle that the characters prac-

tically destroy themselves trying to protect. And the songs, while catchy, really only make sense in the context of the story and can't stand on their own. But to focus on those complaints is to miss the bigger picture. Disney has delivered a cute, funny, creative, expertly-animated movie with songs by one of the all-time greats. You'll do well to take the family to see it this holiday season.

Grade: B

"Encanto" is rated PG for some thematic elements and mild peril. Its running time is 99 minutes.



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QPS Personnel Help Fill Local Food Pantries

The annual Quincy Public Schools Fall Gathering provides the opportunity for Quincy Public Schools employees to gather for a fun-filled afternoon at the Tirrell Room, while helping to fill Quincy's local food pantries

for the holiday season.

Admission to the event is the donation of four non-perishable food items. Last year, the event was canceled due to COVID-19. This year, for the safekeeping of all, the event was redesigned

with the same goal in mind:

To fill Quincy's local food pantries, which included the Germantown Neighborhood Center, the Southwest Community Center, and the Salvation Army.

Unfortunately, there was

no gathering at the Tirrell Room, but nonetheless, Quincy Public Schools personnel once again donated

hundreds upon hundreds of non-perishable food items to Quincy's food pantries. Donation boxes were lo-

cated in the main office of each Quincy Public Schools building.



WHAT'S COOKING

with
Marie & Suzie

By MARIE D'OLIMPIO and SUZIE FALCO



Jean's Potato Waffles

By MARIE

Today's recipe for potato waffles was made recently by my niece, Jean. She found the recipe in one of her mother's vintage cookbooks, and she decided to make it for a few friends and found the results it so satisfying.

Jean said she had never made them before and they were such a delicious treat that received rave reviews.

Directions and Ingredients

1 cup flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt

2 eggs beaten
1 cup of milk
5 tablespoons of melted butter
1 and 1/2 cooked mashed potatoes
1/4 cup minced onions

In a bowl put flour, baking powder and salt.

In another bowl combine the eggs, milk, butter, potatoes and minced onion.

Add to dry ingredients and beat with rotary beater for 30 seconds.

Allow 3/4 cup of batter for each waffle.

These take about 3 to 4 minutes to cook. Makes 4 section waffles.

Vegan Egnog

By SUZIE

Here is a vegan eggnog recipe I would like to share.

Eggnog is usually high in sugar and most obviously, contains dairy. Many people are sensitive to lactose and either bloat or get an upset stomach, not to mention many folks are steering away from dairy due to its inflammatory effects on the body in general.

This eggnog is made with homemade almond milk. I'm a stickler with this part of the recipe because the store-bought almond milk just does not taste as good. Although, I have found that a product called "Milka-damia" (made from macadamia nuts, and is from Australia) is quite delicious. (I still prefer the homemade almond milk version.)

One ingredient in this recipe is something called yacon syrup. This syrup is made from nothing other than Yacon. It was used by the Incas, and in Bolivia it is currently consumed for its low sugar, and calorie content as 1 as its nutritional profile. Due to the high amount of fructooligosac-

charides, it has a variety of health benefits. This includes reduced symptoms of constipation, there is also some evidence that it can lower blood sugar, Fructooligosac-

charides effectively function as soluble, fermentable fibers and is high in antioxidants and potassium.

VEGAN EGGNOG

3 cups raw almonds, soaked overnight in filtered water (in refrigerator)
4 cups filtered water

1-2 tablespoons raw honey (this is up to you)

1 tablespoon vanilla extract
2 tablespoons yacon syrup
2 teaspoons ground nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

Drain and rinse almonds well. (Make sure the water runs clear and is not brown.)

Place in vitamix or high speed blender with the water and blend until smooth and creamy (about 2 minutes or so.)

Drain through nutmilk bag or cheesecloth to get rid of all the brown sediment. (I purchased the nut milk bags online.)

Pour your finished almond milk (minus all the sediment, just toss this out) in a nice pitcher.

Whisk in remaining ingredients. Chill until nice and cold. Enjoy your healthy eggnog.



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Social Security Matters

Social Security's WEP Is Unfair – I Want My Money Back!

By RUSSELL GLOOR
National Social Security Advisor
at the AMAC Foundation, The Non-Profit Arm
of the Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: How can a foreign company pay into the U.S. Social Security system? I worked in Barbados before I immigrated to the USA and earned a pension there. Now my U.S. Social Security benefits are reduced because I receive a pension from Barbados. One has nothing to do with the other and I want my money back!
Signed: Angry Immigrant

Dear Angry: Foreign companies don't pay into the U.S. Social Security system, and neither do residents of other countries working in their home country. But a resident of a foreign country who earns a pension in their home country, and who later moves to the U.S. and earns an additional U.S. Social Security pension, will have their U.S. Social Security benefit reduced by a provision of U.S. law called the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). WEP was enacted by Congress in 1983 to eliminate what was viewed as "double dipping" – where someone with an extra pension (such as your Barbados pension earned without contributing to US Social Security) had their US Social Security (SS) benefit computed in the same way as a US resident who had no such extra "non-covered" pension. The 1983 WEP rule created a special formula for those entitled to both a U.S. Social Security benefit (earned by contributing to the US program) and another pension earned without contributing to Social Security.

Though you are adamant that one has nothing to do with the other, US law says otherwise. WEP reduces the US Social Security benefit of anyone with a "non-covered" (e.g., foreign) pension so that their US Social Security benefit is more consistent with benefits provided to others without an extra non-covered pension. US Social Security is designed to provide a higher percentage of replacement income to lower income workers, and those with an extra non-covered pension enjoy an unfair advantage because their income artificially appears lower than it truly is. WEP was implemented by Congress to correct that unfair advantage. However, like you, almost everyone affected by WEP (which, by the way, includes many public service employees in 27 U.S. states) believes it to be unfair and often complain about it to their Congressional Representatives.

For information, there is a legislative bill now before Congress which proposes to eliminate WEP (H.R. 82 – The Social Security Fairness Act of 2021). I must, however, let you know that a bill to either eliminate or reform WEP has been introduced in nearly every Congress for many years, and no previous bill has ever made it past being introduced on the floor of the House or Senate and then assigned to a committee for review, where progress seems to end.

Although you want your money back, I'm afraid I can't offer you much hope that will ever happen. Congress is more focused on other issues, including a much broader reform of the Social Security program to restore it to financial solvency before the SS Trust Fund is depleted in 2034 (which would require an across the board 21% reduction in all benefits). Whether WEP reform will be part of the corrective measures taken to restore Social Security's finances is anybody's guess. But registering your objection to the Windfall Elimination Provision with your Congressional Representative would be a step in that direction.

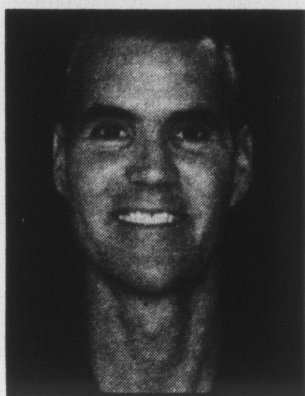
This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity.

To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Quincy College Business Alliance Hosting Entrepreneur Phil Black

Quincy College's Business Alliance – an on-campus club for students interested in pursuing careers in business – will host "A Conversation with Phil Black," a free, virtual forum open to both Business Alliance members and the community at large, on Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m.

Over the past three decades, Black has built a record of unique accomplishments as a Division 1 college athlete, US Navy SEAL, Goldman Sachs investment banker, firefighter, and is well-known as an entrepreneur and two-time contestant on TV's "Shark



PHIL BLACK

Tank." He is the creator of PrepWell Academy, an innovative approach to preparing high school students and their parents for the rigors of the college admissions process, and is also the creator

of FitDeck, custom playing cards depicting various exercises that can be shuffled to create random workouts.

"Phil Black is a passionate, inspirational entrepreneur who we're privileged to welcome virtually to Quincy College," said Jonathan Bell, a Quincy College business management major who serves as President of the Business Alliance. "We're anxious to hear his unique perspectives on life as well as business and, as a fellow US military veteran, I'm particularly interested to learn how his service has contributed to his profes-

sional success."

Advance registration is required; visit <https://bit.ly/318iZIO>

"A Conversation with Phil Black" comes just three weeks after Quincy College won state and accrediting-agency approvals to offer a Bachelor's degree in Business Management. The College is the only two-year institution in Massachusetts offering a Baccalaureate degree program and the College is currently enrolling students in third-year courses in business management for the semester beginning in January.

The Naughty List: BBB's 12 Scams Of Christmas

Cont'd From Page 4

on one of their accounts, and it further urges them to take immediate action to prevent the account from being compromised. Be extra cautious about unsolicited calls, emails, and texts.

5. Free Gift Cards: Nothing brings good cheer like the word 'FREE'. Scammers have been known to take advantage of this weakness by sending bulk phishing emails requesting personal information to receive free gift cards. In some of these emails, scammers impersonate legitimate companies like Starbucks and promise gift cards to loyal customers that have been supporting their business throughout the pandemic. They may also use pop-up ads or send text messages with links saying you were randomly selected as the winner for a prize.

If you have received an unsolicited email with gift card offers, do not open it. Instead, mark it as Spam or Junk. However, if you opened the email, do not click on any links.

6. Temporary Holiday Jobs: Retailers typically hire seasonal workers to help meet the demands of holiday shoppers. Shippers and delivery services are top holiday employers this year because of the increase in online orders and the need to get most of these packages delivered before Christmas. These jobs are a great way to make extra money, sometimes with the possibility of turning into a long-term employment opportunity. However, jobseekers need to be wary of employment scams aimed at stealing money and personal information from job applicants. Keep an eye out for opportunities that seem too good to be true.

7. Look-Alike Websites: The holiday season brings endless emails offering deals, sales and bargains. Be wary of emails with links enclosed. Some may lead to look-alike websites created by scammers to trick people into downloading malware, making dead-end purchases and sharing private information. If you are uncertain about the email, do not click any of the links. Instead, hover over them to see where they reroute.

8. Fake Charities: Typically, 40% of all charitable donations are received during the last few weeks of the year. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many organizations had to cancel their usual fundraising events and awareness campaigns and are now inviting donors to support online. Donors are advised to lookout for fraudulent charities and scammers pretending to be individuals in need. Avoid impromptu donation decisions to unfamiliar organizations. Responsible organizations will welcome a gift tomorrow as much as they do today. Verify a charity at BBB's give.org or on the Canada Revenue Agency website. Where possible, donate to the charity through their website and use a credit card.

9. Fake Shipping Notifications: More consumers are making purchases online, there is also an increase in the number of notifications about shipping details from retailers and carriers. Scammers are using this new surge to send phishing emails with links enclosed that may allow unwanted access to your private information or download malware onto your device. They may also try to trick people into paying new shipping fees.

10. Pop Up Holiday Virtual Events: This year, many local in-person events such as pop-up holiday markets or craft fairs, have moved online. Scammers are creating fake event pages, social media posts, and emails, charging admission for what used to be a free event. The goal is to steal credit card information. Confirm with the organizer of the event if there is an admission fee. In the cases where there is a charge, use a credit card. If the event is free, watch for scammers trying to claim otherwise.

11. Top Holiday Wishlist Items: Low or ridiculously priced luxury goods, jewelry, designer clothing, and electronics are almost always cheap counterfeits and knockoffs. This year, the Galactic Snackin' Grogu Animatronic (aka Baby Yoda) and game consoles are some of the items in high demand. Be very cautious when considering to purchase these high-value items from individuals through social sites.

12. Puppy Scams: Many families, especially those with children, may be considering to add a furry friend to their household this year. However, you could fall victim to a pet scam, which are on the rise this year. Request to see the pet in person before making a purchase.

For general information on how to avoid scams, visit BBB.org/AvoidScams. For more advice, read BBB's tips on online shopping. If you've spotted an online scam, report it to BBB ScamTracker.

Read more BBB Holiday Tips at BBB.org/holiday.

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On Nov. 27, at approximately 8:25 a.m., Officer W. Murphy observed a call come in on his cruiser computer of a female that allegedly took mail from mailboxes on Whitney Road.

Dispatch notes indicated that the female was now near 1200 Hancock St. (Citizens Bank). Officer Murphy made his way to the location from Washington and Coddington Streets. He observed a female, approximately 30 years of age, wearing a beige sweater. This individual matched the description that the caller provided.

As Officer Murphy drove past the female, she acknowledged his presence and began stuffing a bag into a trash can on the sidewalk. Officer Murphy turned his cruiser around. As he drove next to her, Officer Murphy was approached by the reporting party who pointed to the female and said "That's her!" Officer Murphy got out of his cruiser and the female began to walk quickly across Hancock Street, trying to get away from Officer Murphy. Officer Murphy instructed her to stop, but she took off running toward the Quincy Center MBTA station.

Officer Murphy got back into his cruiser and went to the train station while Officers Minton and Brown joined him in searching for the female. He broadcast a description of the female over the radio and within moments Sgt. Duggan located her on the Burgin Parkway entrance to the Quincy Center train station. Officer Murphy then responded to Sgt. Duggan's location. He asked the female if she had an ID on her. She told him that everything was in the trash can that he saw her stuffing things into when he first encountered her.

Officer Murphy suggested that they go and retrieve the bag in order to get her identification, which she agreed to. At no time was she handcuffed or placed under arrest. They made their way through the train station to the parking lot behind 1225 Hancock St. to investigate further. They were met by the reporting party in the parking lot.

Officer Murphy interviewed the reporting party who told him that prior to officers locating the female, his wife was looking out the window and saw a female standing in the middle of the road. The resident continued to observe the female walking up Whitney Road toward Hancock Street while checking several car doors and rummaging through mailboxes. The resident saw the female go into a vehicle parked on Whitney Road and walk up to the mailbox before trying to get into the backyard. The reporting party turned

A Job Well Done

By QUINCY POLICE SGT. KARYN BARKAS
Public Information Officer
Quincy Police Department

over a Macy's delivery bag full of items to Officer Minton. Officer Minton then asked the female if the bag was hers and she replied that it was.

The Macy's delivery bag was addressed to a resident on Whitney Road. Inside the bag was numerous pieces of mail that appeared to have been stolen out of vehicles. There were numerous vehicle registrations, traffic citations, a 2000 Honda Odyssey owner's manual, take out menus, a flashlight, sunglass case, loose change and other pieces of trash. The registrations and mail was addressed to another Whitney Road resident.

Officer Murphy photographed all of these items and returned the property to their rightful owners. Officer Murphy contacted the Boston Postal Inspector's Office and advised them of the situation and provided them with the female's information and a case number.

The 44-year-old female from Boston will be summonsed to Quincy District Court for two counts of breaking and entering to motor vehicle for misdemeanor (2 counts).

SCAM ALERT: The jewelry scam is back!

Elderly residents have been approached and their jewelry swapped out for worthless imitation gold. The victims don't realize their jewelry is gone until it's too late. A victim reported that he was approached by a large black SUV. The female passenger waved him over and tried to place a necklace around his neck. In doing so, the female removed the victim's necklace and dropped worthless jewelry on the ground. The vehicle then sped off.

The female suspect was described as skinny and small with light brown skin. She was accompanied by the driver of the SUV, described as heavy set with light brown skin, a round face and beard. There were also two young children in the back seat. This incident happened Dec. 1st at approximately 3:30 p.m. in the area of 680 Hancock St. Detectives have learned that this is not the only victim. Most often, these vehicles are rental vehicles and therefore will have an

out-of-state license plate.

If you live in the area and have surveillance video which may have captured the suspect vehicle, please contact Detective Jimmy Chen at jjchen@quincyma.gov or 617.745.5766. Please share this information with your elderly family members, friends, and neighbors.

SAFEGUARD YOUR ONLINE PURCHASES:

It is estimated that roughly 3 billion packages will be delivered this holiday. Keep your packages out of the hands of the dreaded "porch pirates" by following these suggestions:

- 1.) Send the package to the residence of a trusted friend, relative, or neighbor who you know will be home. Be sure the friend will be available to retrieve the package upon delivery. If possible, have the package shipped to your work address.
- 2.) Request a signature. Many packages today are sent without a signature required. The package is simply left on the front stairs / porch.
- 3.) Leave special instructions on where to deliver the package (for example: please leave package on back stairs, at side door, etc). This will at least keep the package out of plain sight of a passerby. If you use this option, ask that the delivery person remove the note from your front door and leave with package.
- 4.) Order on-line and have it shipped to the local store for in-store pickup.
- 5.) Use an Amazon Locker or UPS Access Point Locker.
- 6.) Upgrade your mailbox. There are a number of lockboxes and secure parcel drops that can either replace your current mailbox or be added to your home's exterior for package delivery.
- 7.) Install a security camera. While this will not guarantee your package won't be stolen, it might help identify the perpetrator(s).
- 8.) Neighborhood Watch: If you know your neighbors, you can develop your own neighborhood watch. Help one another by picking up packages you see outside and drop texts or emails to alert one another what you've done. That way, they are safe inside and won't be grabbed by the "porch pirates" As always, be vigilant. Watch for vehicles that seem to be following delivery trucks. If you observe any suspicious behavior, contact the Quincy Police Department right away at 617-479-1212 and encourage others to do the same.

QUINCY POLICE CRIME AWARENESS JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 24

LARCENY (in past), 6:29 a.m., Chestnut Street. States he got into a verbal argument yesterday and his friend took keys and phone. Would like to speak with an officer and file a report. Car is located at Brookside Road and Commercial Street. Car and keys located.

LARCENY/MOTOR VEHICLE, 12:22 p.m., South Street. Motorcycle last seen this morning. No recent queries. Enter stolen vehicle record entered.

THURSDAY, NOV. 25

VANDALISM/PROPERTY (gas pump), 9:40 a.m., Furnace Brook Parkway. Person drove off with hose attached to pump. Party stopped and provided insurance information to manager. Advised.

FRIDAY, NOV. 26

VANDALISM/PROPERTY (Dodge Ram truck), 12:14 p.m., Hancock Street. Second car involved. Report filed.

VANDALISM/PROPERTY (door), 7:46 p.m., Hancock Street. A brick was thrown through front door and shattered and now people can get in. Concerned about people getting in and packages being stolen. Reporting party contacted building owner. Owner to handle.

LARCENY (money), 9:45 p.m., East Howard Street. Did not pay for delivery from restaurant. Reporting party states male did not give an apartment number. Came down to lobby door and received food; did not pay.

SATURDAY, NOV. 27

BREAKING AND ENTERING/PAST (packages), 11:36 a.m., Huntley Road. Packages and a few other personal items stolen off porch.

SUNDAY, NOV. 28

LARCENY (packages), 6:13 p.m., Huntley Road. Off the caller's porch. Reporting party going out and will call when she returns home. Report.

BREAKING AND ENTERING/PAST (dwelling), 11:28 p.m., Sea Street. Laptop and phone missing. Back door kicked in. Reporting party found him to be sober and lucid. Damage to rear door was found.

MONDAY, NOV. 29

VANDALISM/PROPERTY (graffiti), 8:09 a.m., Parkway. Report to be filed.

TUESDAY, NOV. 30

LARCENY (open packages), 5:49 a.m., Oval Road. Reporting party states QPD was at residence for an unwanted homeless male a few weeks ago and states he saw this male in the building again and discovered open packages

and wants to speak with an officer. Report filed.

VANDALISM/PROPERTY (large graffiti), 10:27 a.m., School Street. Extremely large spray painted graffiti stating "Exile" on side facing O'Connell Property Marina Bay Management. Report to be filed, photos taken with iPad. Second location of vandalism transformer (city property).

LARCENY (packages), 7:05 p.m., Bent Terrace. Caller has video of the suspects. Report filed.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 1

LARCENY/MOTOR VEHICLE (motor vehicle), 10:29 a.m., Southern Artery. 2020 black Hyundai Sonata. Texas registration stolen out of lot. Unsure of who actually took vehicle. Stolen motor vehicle form completed. Male arrived with another driver, total owed paid to business. Account was settled - no need for police services at this time.

LARCENY (just occurred), 3:47 p.m., Hancock Street. Male came into the store and said someone stole his items. Does not speak English. Victim's son enroute (1 hour ETA). Son will bring father to QPD to translates events to officer. Incident closed.

THURSDAY, DEC. 2

VANDALISM/PROPERTY (locks glued), 2:20 a.m., Fayette Street. Just got home from work, and his locks were glued so he can't get in. Believes a former tenant did it. Came to report it at the station but would like to meet an officer at this apartment to speak to and show the locks. QFD for entry. Report submitted.

VANDALISM/PROPERTY (two windows broken), 10:43 a.m., Bower Road. Reporting party states a neighbor contacted her to let her know that two windows were broken. Unsure if this was due to a break-in or vandalism. Reporting party is about 20 minutes away from residence. Will call back when she is close and will have officer meet her at that location at that time. No entry was made, just vandalism. 783 walk through with reporting party. Case number was provided.

Total Calls for Service: 1,296 (11-24 - 12-2)

Breaking & Entering Motor Vehicle: Newport Avenue, Brockton Avenue, Martensen Street, Dysart Street, East Squantum Street (2), Saville Avenue, Willard Street, Winter Street, Tirrell Street, Huntley Road

Breaking & Entering in the Past: Sea Street
Larceny Motor Vehicle: South Street

Holiday Season Brings Out The Elder Fraud Scammer, Warns Association Of Mature American Citizens

By JOHN GRIMALDI

'Tis the season to be jolly and for seniors to beware of fraudsters who target the elderly this time of the year. What makes older folk more susceptible to becoming targets for scammers during the holiday season? The consensus is that the older we get the more charitable we become, says the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC).

The National Institutes

of Health calls it "positivity bias." It's a condition that makes "older adults draw more positive affect from both the planning and outcome of monetary donations and hence benefit more from engaging in monetary charity than their younger counterparts."

According to the FBI, scammers target seniors "because they tend to be trusting and polite. They also usually have financial

savings, own a home, and have good credit—all of which make them attractive to scammers ... Additionally, seniors may be less inclined to report fraud because they don't know how, or they may be too ashamed at having been scammed."

The phone rings and the caller identifies himself or herself as representing a charitable organization that helps needy kids or disadvantaged families. He or she

asks for an over the phone credit card donation. There are variations of this particular scam. For example, the caller may say that a relative is in trouble and needs money and gets an elderly "mark" to wire funds.

And then there are the con artists who prefer the person-to-person approach. They'll hand around the mall looking for gray hair and when they spot a likely

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QPS To Hire Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator

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stakeholders at the student forums and the parent forums."

"We are committed and dedicated to making positive change in Quincy to make our district a much better place to be for our students and families moving forward," he added.

Erin Perkins, the district's assistant superintendent, said administrators are committed to using the feedback they received to make the school system better for all students.

"It was extremely upsetting to hear our students hurting like that," she stated. "We are all committed, as Superintendent Mulvey said, to taking this feedback and using it to make a better school experience for our students who are feeling like they do not fit."

The creation of the new position for the EDI coordinator was something recommended by students and other stakeholders.

"Hiring a DEI coordinator was something universally said loud and clear in every meeting that we had," Perkins stated.

Mulvey said the new EDI coordinator would be key to addressing the concerns raised by students and other stakeholders.

"That position moving forward will really be critical in order for us to effectively manage and respond effectively to the concerns that we're hearing from students and families," he said.

The superintendent said

the EDI coordinator's salary would be in the range of \$100,000 to \$120,000. The district could use ESSER funds, money made available to local school systems by the federal government as part of stimulus packages passed by Congress in the last two years, to fund that position, Perkins said.

Committee Vice Chairperson Kathryn Hubley noted the committee has already approved a plan to allocate the ESSER funds the district will receive and asked Perkins if that plan would need to be revised to accommodate the new coordinator's salary.

"How will be back taking out funds from that and figuring out what's getting cut to put that position in?" Hubley said.

Perkins said the original plan to allocate ESSER money, which is still awaiting state approval, might need to be amended. The district did dedicate a portion of the ESSER funds for social emotional initiatives, she stated, and that money could be used to hire the EDI coordinator.

Committee member Emily Lebo said the committee could reallocate funds within the current fiscal year's budget to pay the new coordinator's salary and then use ESSER funds to make up for any cuts that would need to be made.

"I definitely support this position and whatever you need to do, and I really don't want to wait for the ESSER funding to get this moving,"

Lebo said.

Mulvey said administrators could present the committee with a plan to fund the new coordinator position as soon as the committee's next meeting, which was scheduled for this Wednesday.

In addition to Lebo, committee members Douglas Gutro and Courtney Perdios both voiced their support for hiring an EDI coordinator at the Dec. 1 meeting.

Before the new coordinator can be hired, Mulvey said a job description would need to be created. Administrators will solicit feedback from various stakeholders to help shape that job description, he said.

Once the job description is ready, Mulvey said the opening would be posted in numerous places externally and internally. The new hire is likely to be an outside hire, he added.

Mayor Thomas Koch, the chairperson of the School Committee, told Mulvey not to worry about finding funding for the new position before advertising for the job.

"It's clear to me that there is an agreed upon position about this new job, so I would suggest to move forward as quickly as you can, superintendent," Koch said.

"We will figure out the money, whether it is out of the federal pot or whatever. We'll figure that out, so I don't want that to hold anything up. We should get the job description done and go to work on trying to hire somebody."

The hiring of the new EDI coordinator was one of several recommendations made by stakeholders over the past month.

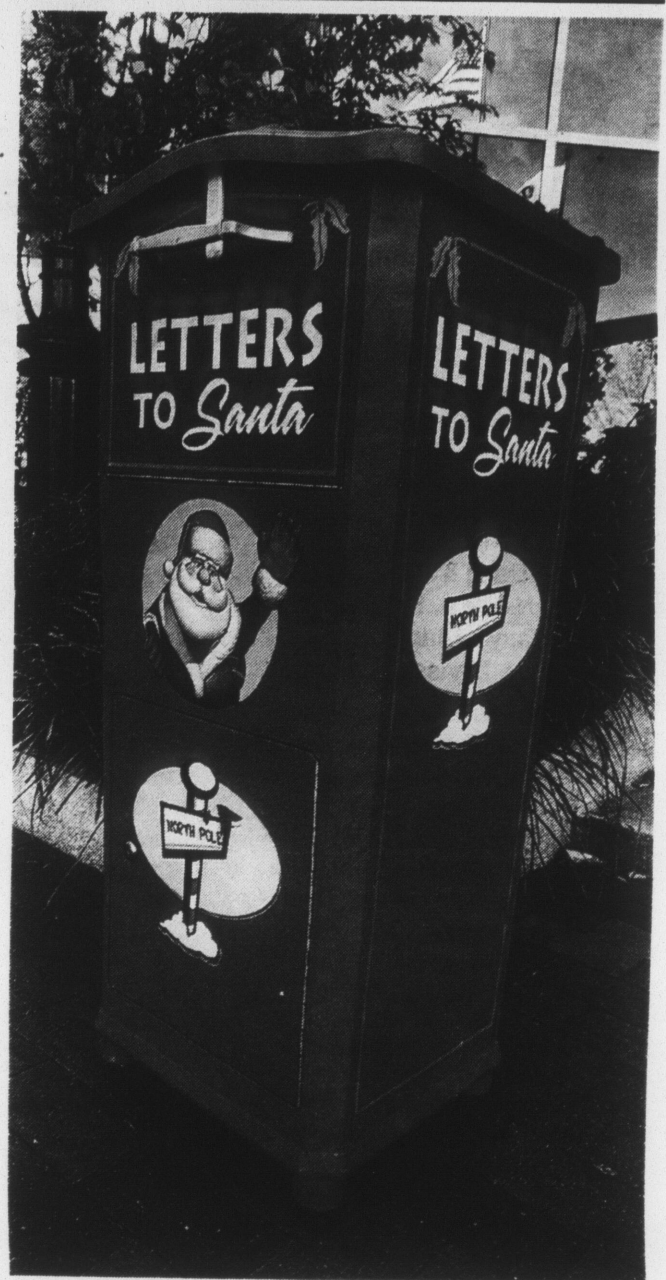
Among the other recommendations Perkins highlighted were revising the student handbook to include the incorporation of restorative justice procedures and policy for resolving incidents; providing more transparency and clearer consequences for incidents involving discrimination; provide a system for reporting microaggressions and bias incidents; and opportunities for meditation and reflection.

Students and other stakeholders also suggested making revisions to the curriculum. Those include continuing to update book selections to feature more books by diverse authors and books that are more relevant to students. The history curriculum could also be updated so, for instance, Black history is not just taught during February, which is Black History Month. More diverse foods could also be included in the culinary program.

Also recommended were access to translators for PTO meetings, cultural representation during things like spirit week, culturally inclusive food options for lunch, student-run assemblies, the diversification of staff and the hiring of school adjustment counselors.

The district identified both short- and long-term

Cont'd On Page 13



SANTA'S MAILBOX outside City Hall, glass annex building, 1305 Hancock St., will be accepting "Letters to Santa" from youngsters until noon on Thursday, Dec. 23.

Quincy Sun Photo/Robert Bosworth

Santa's Mailbox Outside City Hall Until Dec. 23

The Quincy Christmas Festival Committee reminds residents that the exclusive mail box for "Letters to Santa" is located on the Hancock-Adams Common near the main entrance to City Hall (glass annex building), 1305 Hancock St.

The mailbox will be in

place until noon on Thursday, Dec. 23. The colorful mailbox has been designed for young children to have easy access and send letters directly to Santa at the North Pole without postage. The box is ideal for family photos. The mail box is a traditional activity of the festival committee.

Schools Taking Students' Concerns Seriously, Koch Says

By SCOTT JACKSON

Administrators within the Quincy Public Schools are taking concerns about racism and hate speech raised by students over the last month seriously, Mayor Thomas Koch said in a recent interview.

Koch also said he plans to ask his fellow School Committee members to ban the use of cellphones within the classroom.

Students at both high schools walked out of class on Nov. 12 to protest racism and hate speech. One week

prior, students at Quincy High School created a song naming students from North Quincy High School that used racist and sexualized language, according to school officials. Then, on Nov. 9, a physical altercation occurred at Quincy

High School, initiated because of a video with racist hate speech one of the students involved in the altercation had made.

In response to those incidents, Supt. Kevin Mulvey organized virtual and in-person forums for members of

the high school community, which were attended by 130 and 150 people, respectively, the superintendent said at a Dec. 1 special meeting of the School Committee. The district has also held a number of other forums for students, staff, parents and other stakeholders in recent weeks.

At the Dec. 1 School Committee meeting, Mul-

vey also announced the district planned to hire a new equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) coordinator.

Koch, who is the chairperson of the School Committee, was asked about the student walkout in an interview the afternoon after the Dec. 1 meeting. The mayor said the district is taking concerns raised by students

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Holiday Season Brings Out The Elder Fraud Scammer, Warns Association Of Mature American Citizens

Cont'd From Page 10

victim, they will simply approach him or her, recite a well-rehearsed spiel tale of need and ask for a handout. A variant of this approach is a bit more theatrical. For example, they will dress for the occasion and represent themselves as an authorized solicitor working for the Salvation Army or a relief organization collecting funds for families displaced by a recent disaster such as a fire, flood or storm, for example.

The Internet has facili-

tated these types of rip-offs. With more and more seniors becoming tech-savvy and learning how to use a computer, swindlers have yet another way to separate a kind seniors from their money. Email solicitations are growing in popularity among these seasonal thieves. The holidays allow them to stalk the World Wide Web with seemingly personal messages from organizations and companies that seem very honest. They can make email messages

look very real by mimicking the actual logos of legitimate charities and retailers. This technique allows them to get your money via a phony charitable contribution or get you to make a fake holiday purchase online.

Gerry Hafer, executive director of the AMAC Foundation, says that AMAC has long been focused on the issue of elder fraud. The Foundation, AMAC, Inc., itself, and its advocacy subsidiary, AMAC Action, have joined forces to create

an Elder Fraud Initiative to aid in development of an instructional approach to help seniors protect themselves. The initiative aims to provide a guide for online protection, a sort of how-to protocol for defending against fraud. Hafer reports, "Our website blog page already presents a variety of News & Info posts associated with elder fraud and will soon provide a comprehensive guide for online protection that our tech folks are in the process of preparing."

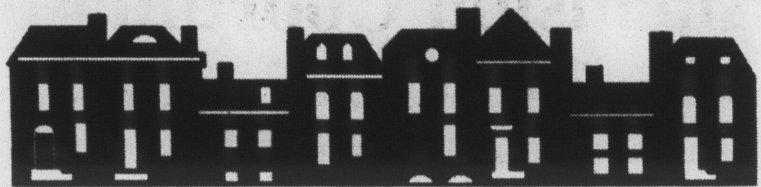
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Real Estate

Quincy Real Estate Transactions Nov. 29 - Dec. 3

Transactions are compiled by the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds

SELLER

Abhishek & Fenal Shah
Hop-Shue & Mee F. Cheung
Michael V. Dang & Rose Nguyen
John E. & Nicole A. Kindregan
Paul J. & Tanya Adamson
Nicholas B. & Marissa S. Hanney
Lisa A. Dunn
Julia M. Lee
Jonathan Nagle
Jason C. Murphy
Packards Lane 2012 Realty Trust
Arthur R. & Peggy A. Ferris
Stokes Irrevocable Family Trust
So L. Ting & Yingqi Su
Rose Santosuosso
Curran Family Trust
Carol A. Corner-Doloff
Nicole A. & John Sacco
Richard M. & Lynda LaFratta
Deborah A. Ragosta, David B. Mitchell,
Paul G. Mitchell & David E. Mitchell
Timothy R. & Joanne K. Murphy
Estate of David G. Weed
John F. & Colleen M. Fish
Thomas Leone, David Leone, Peter Leone,
Gary Leone & Loretta Mullen
Mark J. St. Peter
Gerald P. & Wendy J. Connors
53 Lakeshore Drive LLC
Estate of Martha S. Czarowski
Michael R. & Barbara L.S. Wales
Shannon McGrath Nominee Trust
Matthew Rosales & Heather Hapner
EJS Investments Inc
James & Michelle K. Fitzgerald
Geraldine Corrado Living Trust
Michael C. & Melissa Burns
Richard E. & Elizabeth A. Wood
Lisa S. S. Ng, Yum S. Ng & Janice L. S. Fung
Kevin J. & Rebecca Conway
Daiane L. Carlson Trust
Estate of Patricia A. MacLellan
Joseph Tocchio

BUYER

Maggie Mui
Hong L. Deng & Qing Ruan
Tin Tran & Anh Thi Kim Pham
Rosemary & Bryan J. McElhinney
Alexander J. MacIsaac & Kathleen M. DaSilva
Albert & Berta Malo
Jisheng Huang & Ruiwen Li
Kirstie J. Hendriksen & Sydney Fallon
Caroline Mulrey
Kevan Patel, Trupti Patel & Bankim Patel
Grand Line LLC
Lirong Zheng
Max Rousseau
Julie E. & Lam T. Tran
Sharon Z. Qiu & Changyi Zhu
Lindsay K. & Nicholas Ferri
The Christine C. Haddad Revocable Trust
Dani Bishop & Ashley Genrich
Amy K. Kelly

Deqiang Xu
43 Burns Avenue LLC
Longhao Xie & Yuzhen Yu
Carlos E. Caraballo & Aracely Blanco

Xuekai Zhang
Nhu Ho
Kathryn M. Greskoff & James Keith
Kunpeng Properties LLC
Christopher Barbone
Edward Wilfrid Maby
CCZ Real Estate LLC
Wilson Lee
Wei J. Luo, Jia H. Hu & Zhan Zhang
Bridget Coleman & Brian O'Dea
Peng Liang
Debao Chen & Yijun Huang
Nancy Drury
Janice L. S. Fung & Yum S. Ng
Steven C. Vlad & Krysten A. Modrzejewski
Quinton & Ashley Wesley
David M. Sansevero
Quan Vo & Ngan Vien

AMOUNT

\$420,000.00
\$368,000.00
\$540,000.00
\$750,000.00
\$615,000.00
\$600,000.00
\$585,000.00
\$439,000.00
\$410,000.00
\$560,000.00
\$690,000.00
\$920,000.00
\$605,000.00
\$898,000.00
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\$535,000.00
\$349,000.00
\$655,000.00
\$620,000.00
\$440,000.00
\$708,500.00
\$565,000.00
\$242,000.00
\$799,000.00
\$735,000.00
\$585,000.00
\$710,000.00

ADDRESS

1022 Hancock Street, Unit 103
232 Quincy Shore Drive
1138 Furnace Brook Parkway
56 South Central Avenue
221 Bellevue Road
106 Independence Avenue
118 Utica Street
10 Seaport Drive, Unit 2617
77 Adams Street, Unit 109
50 Des Moines Road, Unit 1B
53 Packards Lane
113 Franklin Avenue
5 Ellington Road
22 Trafford Street
23 Cliff Street
103 Grand View Avenue
10 Seaport Drive, Unit 2505
23 Essex Street
36 Bloomfield Street

59 Belmont Street
43 Burns Avenue
118 Taylor Street
9 Moreland Road

19 Pray Street
51 Willard Street
15 Thomas Street
33 Bigelow Street
34 Braintree Avenue
5 Whaler Avenue, Unit 74
21 McGrath Highway, Unit 406
118-122 Brook Road, Unit 122-1
50 Des Moines Road, Unit I-4
12 Charles Street
1022 Hancock Street, Unit 203
62 Parke Avenue
231 Manet Avenue
90 Whiton Avenue
20 Joan Drive
105 Faxon Park Road
36 Dickens Street
27 Barry Street

O'Donnell: Real Estate Market 'Sluggish' Entering Winter Months

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reported that November real estate numbers relative to Norfolk County real estate activity were off, but there were a few aspects

of the real estate activity to be hopeful about.

"The Norfolk County real estate market has started to become sluggish entering into the winter months," O'Donnell said. There were 14,364 documents recorded at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds which is a 15% decrease over last year's November document volume.

"The number of deeds which evidence real estate

sales and transfers, both commercial and residential, increased a modest 1% in November. The average sales price during the month was \$1,538,528, an impressive 42% increase compared to November 2021. Total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales also showed solid gains, increasing a whopping 37% to over \$1.4 billion."

Despite the deeds fig-

ure holding its own, overall lending activity showed a decrease for the month of November. A total of 3,226 mortgages were recorded during the month, a 25% decrease compared to November 2020.

"Higher interest rates and the prospect of rate increases through the end of the 2021 calendar year are making consumers think twice before borrowing money to pay for high ticket expenses such as home improvements," O'Donnell said. "Also many consumers have previously refinanced given

the past low interest rate environment." In addition, during the month of November 2021 the total amount of residential and commercial borrowing decreased by 7% to \$1.7 billion.

One continuing cause for concern, however in Norfolk County, was foreclosures. A moratorium on foreclosures in place during the pandemic in 2020 was lifted on November 17, 2020. This moratorium was in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has been closely

watching the foreclosure market.

"During November of 2021 there were 4 foreclosure deeds recorded as a result of foreclosure processes taking place in Norfolk County," O'Donnell said. "In addition, there were 13 Notices to Foreclosure Mortgages, the first step in the foreclosure process, recorded here in Norfolk County in November of 2021. A foreclosure recording is very impactful on those being foreclosed on. During November of 2020 there were 3 Foreclosure Deeds and 9 Notices to Foreclosure Mortgages filed. These numbers remind us that some of our neighbors continue to face financial challenges.

"We will continue to monitor these numbers," O'Donnell added.

Additionally, for the past several years, the Norfolk

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QPS To Hire Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator

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goals based on those recommendations.

The short-term goals include creating an equity work group comprised of students, staff, administrators and parents; continuing to use community circles within classrooms to address equity issues; student EDI groups at both high schools; a peer mediation program; expanded celebrations of diverse cultures; and hiring the EDI coordinator for the district and the school adjustment counselors at both high schools.

Long-term goals, those that will take time to implement, include curriculum revisions, diversification of staff, and leadership coaching, for which an outside organization would be

brought in.

Perdios said the short- and long-term goals identified by Mulvey and his team were good but questioned whether they went far enough. Students want accountability, she said, and the items listed by the administration might not provide that.

"The big question is, as a district can we commit to doing the foundational thing that is necessary to do any of this work, which is disrupt the system. We don't, in Quincy, disrupt the system. We don't like it when things get disrupted, we don't like it when people speak out against things, we don't value that," Perdios said.

"We don't do things that are uncomfortable, and this requires us to be uncomfortable,

so are we prepared to break down the system and rebuild it the way it needs to be so that all of our students feel valued? I don't think we should put a dime into this if we're not willing to do that."

In response, Lebo said the school system needs improvements but not a complete rebuild.

"I'm not willing to throw the baby out with the bathwater. I think we need to change some stuff. I don't think we're a failing system by any means. I think we do great things for kids K through 12 and I think this is a failing, a definite failing, but I am not ready to blow up the whole school system to fix this one thing and then have all those other things fall by the wayside. I'm just

not willing to do it. There's a lot of good things happening here," Lebo said.

"Facing this is so important and so big and I am so proud of all of you for having the courage to do this and bring this up."

Perdios, who is in her final month on the committee, replied that the district does many things well, but what the district does is not working for some students. Those students, "need us to make change and make it accountable," she said, so their experience in the school system changes.

"As a school system, but more importantly as a city, we don't often take those voices that are sometimes considered problems in the room and value that, and

we have to be willing to change. That's what I'm trying to say," Perdios said.

"My time on this committee is limited, so I'm just trying to urge you all please make sure that those changes are heard and that we have some accountability so that the system can change. Change is OK. Disrupters are OK. That's how we get better. If it is uncomfortable, that is OK too."

The School Committee and school officials met in person on Dec. 1 at the Coddington Building, as they have for a majority of meetings held over the last year. The meetings have been closed to the public, however; they can be viewed on local access TV and are later posted online.

Gutro, who noted about 20 community members were waiting outside the Coddington Building before the Dec. 1 meeting, said the committee should consider ways to allow the public to attend future meetings.

"We do as a body need to figure out how we get them back in," he said.

Gutro made a motion to reopen future meetings to the public at the end of the Dec. 1 session. Koch, however, said the motion could not be discussed at that time because it was not on the agenda for the evening, and only items on the agenda can be discussed at special committee meetings.

The item could be discussed at this Wednesday's meeting.

Schools Taking Students' Concerns Seriously, Koch Says

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seriously.

"I think there were those that were probably well intentioned on what they were thinking and why they were walking out. I think there were those that just followed along to get out of school," Koch said.

"We, the administration, we're listening and took it seriously. The superintendent, I thought, responded very, very well, didn't overreact, went into listening mode, scheduled the forums and had families invited in, listened to input. I think that's healthy. I think that's all good. I think there will be some good that comes out of it. I don't think walkouts on a regular basis would be a healthy thing for the learning environment.

"I think the point was that we've got some racial issues to deal with in our system, and we're dealing with it."

The vast majority of the 9,600 students within the school system do the right thing day in and day out, Koch continued, but too often the focus is on those who do not.

"This past weekend is a good example. We went from the football game, which was terrific, on Thanksgiving. The turning on the lights. The weekend stuff. The parade - there were kids involved in building floats, ROTC was helping with parade stuff, we had the band members in the parade all participating," the mayor said, referring to the city's annual Christmas parade and related events that take place the same weekend.

"I would say the vast majority of the kids do the right thing every day. They go to school to learn. They get involved in extracurricular

activities or sports or band, whatever it may be, and they do the right thing.

"Unfortunately, more so today than in my memory, we focus on the negative all the time. I think to some degree, when does it reach the saturation point of it is becoming a distraction to the average kid just trying to get his or her education in? I say that with all respect to all sides on this. I think there's issues. We should tackle the issues, deal with the issues."

"We continue to do professional development with teachers and staff, sensitivity and understanding that we're dealing with a lot of different cultures and how they feel about things when they get offended and so forth," Koch added.

"I think that's important, these exercises that we go through, that we become more sensitive to each of the various cultures, but at the end of our day our job is to make these kids ready when they leave high school whether they are going on for further education or going into the working world in a career in the trades, whatever it may be, and between COVID and some of these disruptions my concern is that kids aren't getting what they would normally get because of all these disruptions.

"It's my hope that we can get through this stuff, make some adjustments, make some changes, and make sure that every kid feels comfortable in the school environment and get back to business."

The mayor did not attend the in-person forum held at Quincy High School on Nov. 15. Koch said he stayed away from the event to avoid politicizing it but would be open to meeting with students in the future.

"I actually stayed away from the night at Quincy High purposely and no matter what I do, I can't win, whether I go or not. My thought was that was a listening night for Quincy High and the families and parents were invited. I didn't want to make it political," he said.

"Now, I get plenty of reports from the superintendent every day of what is going on and I would be open to meeting with students, but when the mayor of the city shows up, I just think it changes the dynamic a little bit and I wanted it to be about the kids and their needs. The teachers and principal and SLT (the superintendent's leadership team) they were all there listening, and that's what matters."

In the interview, Koch was asked if social media helped contribute to the recent incidents within the school system. The mayor responded that "there is no question about it," and said he planned to ask his fellow School Committee members to ban cellphones in classrooms.

"The advent of these devices," Koch said, holding up his cellphone, "has had some great good, but it has also brought with it some major issues that's been a jolt to society and I'm not so sure it's all that good all the time."

"I know I will be talking to other School Committee members about restricting the use of these in the classroom," Koch continued, holding up his cellphone again. "I think it is time we do that. It's not my decision, it's the decision of the committee."

"I'm certainly going to recommend it whether we have bins that kids put them

in when they come into class or they have to keep it in their backpack. If they want, perhaps they can use them in the hallway, but for God's sakes, what do they need to be on the phone all day for, especially when you're in a learning environment and teachers are trying to engage these kids. It's a constant distraction - a constant distraction."

The recent incidents should also serve as a wakeup call for parents to pay attention to what their children are doing on their phones, Koch stated.

"The other piece of this is that the schools shouldn't be judged for everything that goes on on these things," the mayor said, once more holding up his phone. "A lot of this stuff goes on outside of school hours. Now, it points to some things going on in the schools, and that is why we are doing what we're doing, but in the old days in the schools you're responsible from 8:30 to 2:30 what went on in the buildings and the grounds. Now school systems are judged for [what happens] 24/7 when we're not in control."

"I hope this is a little bit of a wakeup call to parents and family members, that they should be paying atten-

tion to these devices as well, because it's not all good for these kids. It isn't."

At the Dec. 1 committee meeting, Koch told Mulvey not to worry about finding funding for the new EDI coordinator's salary and to get started on finding someone to fill that role. In the interview the following day, the mayor said he did not want to stand in the way of adding that job because stakeholders had called for its creation.

"My position was look, if this is that important to everyone that's been active on these issues - and it has come up from just about every voice that we need this position - then I'm not going to stand in the way," Koch stated.

"What I said last night was let's not wait on that, we'll figure it out with the federal money, let's get moving on the posting, doing the job applications, and try to find the right candidate."

City councillors in January voted to create a new Department of Social Justice, a department that, as proposed, would consist of a single employee, a director, who would be tasked to, "create equity and inclusion

among all populations in Quincy."

Koch in February said he saw no need to create the new department and he did not include funding for it in his budget for the fiscal year that began July 1. Koch in July also appointed a nine-member equity, diversion and inclusion commission to probe into those issues.

In the recent interview, Koch said his position on creating a Department of Social Justice has not changed in the last month as a result of the incidents within the school system.

"No," he responded when asked if his opinion had changed. "I think what we're dealing with on the school side is being dealt with on the school side."

"First of all, a city department has no particular jurisdiction in the schools. The school department is separate - a separate governing body and under ed. reform it is very specific of who is in charge of what issues over there. So, if this is to occur, it should happen in the school side. That's where the challenges are."

"The recommendation is to do an EDI coordinator on the school side and that's what we're going to do."

NQHS Drama Club To Present 'The Real Adventures Of Robin Hood'

The North Quincy High School Drama club is presenting The 'Real' Adventures of Robin Hood, a revved-up look at the timeless tale of Robin and his merry band. A swashbuckling, musical adventure, Robin Hood is designed to be fun and engaging for all.

Directors Kariana Santos and Doug Feinburg, welcome you to spend an evening in Sherwood For-

est with Robin Hood and his merry band as they spar with the greedy Sheriff of Nottingham. Be prepared to be immersed into whimsical nonsense with plenty of surprises along the way. With elegant costumes by Kristie Dwyer, lighting by Ryan Santos, and breath-taking sets by Nick Cody and Doug Feinburg, the drama club invites you to an evening of action, adventure, and do-

good thievery.

The show will be performed Friday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Peter Chrisom Auditorium, North Quincy High School, 316 Hancock St., North Quincy. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children and can be purchased at the door or online at nqhdrama.ludus.com. Masks are required for all attendees.

Koch: Gov. Baker 'A Great Partner' Who Will Be Missed

By SCOTT JACKSON

Mayor Thomas Koch called Gov. Charlie Baker, who recently announced he will not run for reelection in 2022, a great partner and said he would be missed.

For his part, Koch all but ruled out a run for governor next year and said he has not made a decision about running for a new term as mayor in 2023.

The 65-year-old Baker, a Swampscott Republican, announced on Dec. 1 that he would not be seeking a third four-year term as the Bay State's governor in 2022. At the same time, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, a 55-year-old Shrewsbury Republican, announced she would neither run for reelection nor for governor next year.

During a recent interview, Koch said Baker spoke to him the morning of his announcement and expressed disappointment, but not surprise, that the governor would not be seeking reelection.

"He called me yesterday morning to talk to me about his decision. I wasn't shocked, honestly," Koch said. "I've had conversations with him over the past year, so I wasn't really shocked or surprised at the decision, but I was disappointed — clearly disappointed."

The mayor said he was not surprised by Polito's decision not to run for governor.

"They came in as a team, they were going out as a team," he said of Baker and Polito. "That's how I always saw it."

In describing the governor as a great partner, Koch noted Baker and Polito both have prior experience in municipal government having served on their respective towns' boards of selectmen and said they valued relationships with local elected officials.

"He's been a great partner. He and his team, Lt. Gov. Polito, they are always available, always accessible. I think they've just been



MAYOR THOMAS KOCH (left), then a registered Democrat, endorsed Republican gubernatorial candidate Charlie Baker (center) and Lt. Governor candidate Karyn Polito during a campaign stop to Quincy in September, 2014. Baker won the race for governor that November and was re-elected in 2018. Baker announced Dec. 1 that he would not seek a third term in 2022. Polito also declared that she would not run for governor next year. Koch has since left the Democratic party and is now registered unenrolled.

Quincy Sun File Photo/Robert Bosworth

a remarkable governor and lieutenant governor combination that we haven't seen in a long, long time," Koch said.

"Both of them talked about when they got elected, they came from local government, so they understand the importance of working with municipalities and they never forgot. I think that was huge."

"The other thing that I think sometimes people forget is a mayor's job and a governor's job, though they are political, they are a CEO management job. Charlie Baker is one of the best CEOs I've seen in that aspect. Maybe he wasn't perfect politically, but as far as running the operation, making decisions, putting people together, rolling up your sleeves to try to fix things. He's the first governor to tackle the MBTA. Everyone always said, 'that's a separate authority.'

"Whatever the issue you want to pick, the housing stuff, the addiction stuff, the MBTA stuff, the education stuff, he didn't shy away from an issue. He was

a believer in getting the best minds together at the table and try to fix it and I have a great admiration for that. We've got another year with him, but we will certainly

miss him and his team, there is no question."

Koch said Baker's decision was likely prompted by a desire to spend more time with his family.

"He's 65. That is a grueling schedule, eight years of doing that," Koch said. "I'm sure his wife wants her husband back. I'm sure his kids want their father and grandfather back. I think that's always the pull in this business and I think when it comes down to it that was probably the deciding factor."

The pandemic was likely a contributing factor as well, Koch said.

"I think COVID and the pandemic was another factor that aged us all politically," the mayor said. "It was a rough stretch. He was at that podium every day, both sides being critical — you're not doing enough, you're doing too much. His polling numbers stayed pretty steady throughout — people liked his leadership."

"I think he'll go out as a very well respected, well regarded governor of the commonwealth."

In the recent interview, Koch said it was unlikely he would make a bid for governor next year.

"I think that an effective

governor should be somebody with a CEO background and mayors are perfect for that. Am I running for governor? No," he said.

"We'll see how the field shakes out. I never say no, rule anything out completely, but I don't see it in my future."

He did rule out a run for lieutenant governor.

"I would absolutely have no interest in being lieutenant governor," Koch said. "If I was going to run, I'd be running for governor."

Koch, a registered Democrat at the time, crossed party lines in 2014 to endorse Baker in his bid for governor against then Attorney General Martha Coakley. Koch has since left the Democratic Party and is now unenrolled — if he were to run for governor, Koch said he would do so an independent.

Koch, who turns 59 in January, was first elected mayor in 2007 and was most recently reelected to a four-year term in 2019. Already the longest-serving mayor in Quincy's history, Koch said he has yet to decide if he will seek a new term in 2023.

"I'm up in two years. I've got some time to think about that one," he said.

Deck, Don't Wreck The Halls This Year By Transporting Your Holiday Tree Safely

It's the time of year when millions of Americans flock to retail lots across the country in search of the perfect Christmas tree. While finding just the right tree may seem like the hardest part — getting it home safely is where the real challenge begins.

Transporting a tree is similar to moving furniture, appliances or other large objects. If not properly secured, a tree can scratch paint, tear door seals or bend window frames. Even worse, a loose tree can fly off or out of the vehicle and

become a danger to other drivers. In fact, a 2019 AAA survey found that 44% of Americans who planned to purchase a real Christmas tree that year admitted to using unsafe methods to transport it home — such as not using the roof rack or placing it in the bed of a pickup truck unsecured.

Losing a Christmas tree on the drive home would no doubt put a damper on the holiday season. But, more importantly, a tree that falls from a vehicle could also cause a collision. Previous research from AAA found

that road debris caused more than 200,000 crashes during a four-year period, resulting in approximately 39,000 injuries and 500 deaths. With a little preparation, the proper tools and the right vehicle — transporting a Christmas tree is easy with these tips from AAA:

- Call the lot ahead of time or check if they've posted information online about availability and COVID protocols. Reports of a nationwide shortage of Christmas trees has caused many people to buy trees as early as possible and inventory could be limited.

- Make sure to bring strong rope or nylon ratchet straps, an old blanket, gloves and of course — the right vehicle. One with a roof rack is ideal but a pickup truck, SUV, van or minivan can work just as well.

- Once you've found the perfect tree, have the lot wrap it in netting before loading it. Loose branches can also be secured with rope or twine to help protect the tree from damage.

- Prior to loading the tree, cover the roof with an old blanket to prevent scratches and damage from sticky sap drips.

- Place the tree on the roof rack or in the bed of the truck with the trunk facing

the front of the car. If the vehicle does not have a roof rack and is a SUV, CUV, van or minivan — place the tree inside. If not, rent or borrow a pickup truck, a vehicle with a roof rack or one that is large enough to accommodate the tree inside.

- While it is possible to tie a tree to a vehicle that lacks a roof rack by opening the windows and running rope or straps through the interior, it's significantly more difficult to properly secure the tree and will require much more rope. Avoid this technique if possible.

- Secure the tree at its bottom, center and top using strong rope or nylon ratchet straps. Avoid using the twine offered by many tree lots. Use fixed vehicle tie-down points and loop the rope or strap around the tree trunk above a branch to prevent any side-to-side or front-to-rear movement.

- Once tied down, give the tree several strong tugs from various angles to make sure it is secured in place and will not come loose.

- Drive slowly and take back roads if possible. Higher speeds can create significant airflow that can damage your tree or challenge even the best tie-down methods.

READERS FORUM

We Are Blessed To Have The Wollaston Post Office

During this time of Thanksgiving I would like to thank the Wollaston Post Office for all of the help they gave me during the dark days of the pandemic. Immediately on suspending services at First Church of Christ Lynn, I knew that I would have to be proactive in keeping the Church going as well as ministering to my people.

I made sure that I maintained regular office hours, instituted a daily Bible Minute on Facebook as well as the Sunday Morning service both on Facebook and Zoom. I also made sure to call each of my parishioners weekly and resumed regular in person Church Services as soon as the Commonwealth allowed in face meetings. What I found extremely effective was the use of good ole US Mail!

I sent out weekly Postcards and Monthly Letters to each of my parishioners as well as Advent, Christmas and Easter boxes and numerous Religious Tracts and Devotionals. During the Pandemic I worked with three Post Offices and

the "Wolly" was head and shoulders above the others. On more than one occasion, the Window Clerk came out to the lobby and helped me post boxes. On one occasion Mr. Munroe, the Postmaster himself helped out. They always made sure I had the proper and least expensive postage. All together I have probably sent out close to a thousand pieces of mail over the course of the Pandemic and still use the P.O. for Holiday as well as special mailings.

I attribute the use of direct mailings to the fact that not only did First Church not lose revenue or more importantly people during the Pandemic we actually experienced growth in both areas.

We are blessed to have the Wollaston branch of the United States Post Office.

Rev. John C. Swanson
Pastor First Church of Christ, Congregational Lynn
Wollaston.

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Good Deeds: Norfolk Registry - The Gold Standard

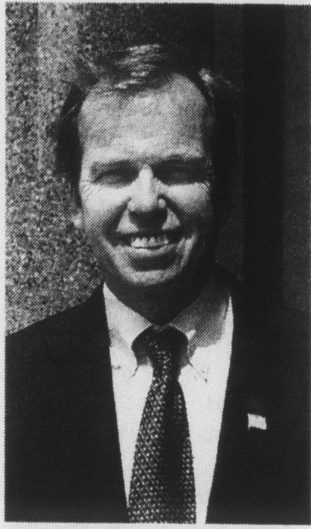
By WILLIAM O'DONNELL
Norfolk County
Register of Deeds

The mission of the Norfolk Registry of Deeds is probably the same today as when the first Register of Deeds, Eliphalet Pond, recorded the very first document back in 1793 when Norfolk County was established. Although we have gone from the days of scribes with quill pens to an era of computers and the internet the objectives are to record land documents and maintain the security, accuracy and accessibility of our communities' land records.

Why should anyone care what takes place at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds? Well one compelling reason is that the biggest asset most of us have is our home and the Registry of Deeds plays a key role in authenticating the real estate title to your home.

As the Eleventh (11th) Norfolk County Register of Deeds my commitment has always been to carry forward the traditions of the past and to modernize Registry operations, the facilities and the Registry services to meet the changing needs of the public.

The delivery of services in this technology centric world we live in today is so vastly different than the days when land records were delivered to the Registry of Deeds Building in Dedham by horseback. In order to understand the importance of keeping technology vibrant at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds let us examine some of the modernization initiatives that have taken place at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds. For the first time in Norfolk County's



WILLIAM O'DONNELL

history there is internet online land records research at www.norfolkdeeds.org.

You can go to the Norfolk Registry of Deeds website to search and view all the land records back to the founding of Norfolk County in 1793. This modernization initiative via advances and improvements in technology brought Registry records directly into your home or business. The records of the Norfolk Registry of Deeds in its internet library of over 10 million documents are a click away because of technology.

Clearly key segments of our local and national real estate economy rely on the job that gets done at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds every day. The staff at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds also takes great pride in the history and significance of the land records collected here. You can search and view land records from your computer that relate to four Presidents of the United States born here in Norfolk County.

There are individuals from all over the country doing genealogical and historical research. The Norfolk Registry of Deeds

undertook a transcription project in order that its historical hand written records could come alive and be more easily read.

Over 450,000 recorded land documents hand written between 1793 to 1900 were transcribed and are available for viewing over the internet. David McCullough an American historian and author wrote "I was fascinated and delighted to learn about the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds and the Xerox Corporation are transcribing the historical deeds into easy to read computer text, and I say this as one who has spent a great deal of my working life struggling to read original letters and diaries and other old documents - you are making an important contribution and I send my warmest congratulations."

Improved technology and management of record levels of document filings have been a major focus for the Norfolk Registry of Deeds. Did you know that the Norfolk Registry of Deeds was the second busiest registry out of 21 registries in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for each of the last three fiscal years? Technology and modernization initiatives have included the implementation of upgraded computer and document processing systems; the development of a Disaster Recovery and Business continuity plan to protect Registry land records, data and operations; the ability to record documents electronically which allows a real estate closing to take place in a lawyer's office and the land documents to be transmitted for recording to the Norfolk Registry of Deeds.

The Norfolk Registry of Deeds was the first Registry in the state to make available electronic recording on the Land Court side as well as the Recorded Land side when recording documents. There is so much more that can be written but a recent letter from Krysta Hendrix of Reliable Research Solutions, LLC in Pembroke probably sums it up best:

"I have experience working in every Registry of Deeds in Massachusetts and can say without hesitation that Norfolk County is the gold standard, most certainly in the technology department. The implementations over the past 15 years with launching e-filing and the ease and rapidity of in-person filing is unmatched. There is also always an informed and knowledgeable human to pick up the phone and with immediacy fix any mis-scanned or mis-indexed or Land Court document issues, which is truly unparalleled throughout Registries within Massachusetts."

As Register of Deeds I have strived to have a financially sound customer service-oriented operation. The tremendous work that makes the Norfolk Registry of Deeds one of the best registries in Massachusetts gets accomplished with technology but also with the efforts of a dedicated work staff. Government should be about serving the needs of the people. To that end a Customer Service Center at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds was created where you can walk in, call or email with your real estate questions.

Here is what was written by Nicholas S. Renzulli, CPA:

"I recently recorded a Homestead at the Registry of Deeds. As a non-lawyer who knew nothing about the procedure I entered the building with dread. I thought that it would be difficult. Boy, was I wrong. The employees in Customer Service could not have been more helpful and friendly. After taking care of the business there, they showed me where to go to get the actual recording. Once again the gentleman at the recording desk was great. I was in and out in about 10 very painless minutes. Thanks for running such a fine example of a government agency."

Recognizing the dynamic world in which we live and expanding upon its commitment to public service the Norfolk Regis-

try of Deeds implemented the first in the state Consumer Notification Service. Consumer Notification allows residents of any of the County's 28 towns to "opt in" and participate in a free service whereby they can be alerted when any document, fraudulent or otherwise, is recorded against their name at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds. This program recognizes that in this era of cybersecurity breaches and ransomware there are frauds going on that involve stealing the legal title to homes and property by cybersecurity predators and criminals. The Norfolk Registry of Deeds also initiated a Community Outreach Program. Because of technology this program allows the Registry of Deeds records to be brought out to the town halls, senior centers and various community groups around Norfolk County in addition to valuable consumer protection information such as the Homestead Act.

The Norfolk Registry of Deeds works with its partners and colleagues in government. The Massachusetts Department of Revenue as well as Norfolk County gets sent a significant portion of the over 81 million dollars in revenue collected during Fiscal Year 2021 by the Registry staff using Registry technology. The monies that get sent to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are used for local aid, public safety, education and social services programs.

The Norfolk Registry of Deeds has been involved with the collection of Community Preservation Act monies which contribute to the funding of Community Preservation Act projects in our local communities. Did you know the Norfolk Registry of Deeds works with your community's Board of Assessors and Assessor Departments to transmit critical records and data?

Donald Clarke, Chief Assessor of the Town of Norfolk, recently wrote a letter to the Norfolk County Commissioners which stated in part: "I have recently become aware that the Abrahams study recommended the complete elimination of onsite IT at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds which is even more worrisome. The coordination between NCRD IT and our IT personnel has been outstanding in regards to the safe and secure e-delivery

of deeds and plans has which allowed this office to stay current in its ownership data and therefore in compliance with DOR regulations. The timeliness of receiving the monthly recorded deeds and plans is essential to the operation of the Assessor's office. Also, as the Town's IT department is regularly updating servers and other IT equipment they have dealt directly with the Registry CIO and staff numerous times in order to keep the flow of information from NCRD to the Town of Norfolk current."

The Norfolk Registry of Deeds over the years has also worked with the various historical commissions and societies as well as the local treasurers always striving to be a resource and service to all.

The Norfolk Registry of Deeds is facing challenges that will affect its ability to deliver services to the residents, users and businesses that rely on Registry operations. It is my hope that the Norfolk Registry of Deeds does not get negatively impacted with unsound public policy decisions.

A user of Registry services, Attorney Thomas J. Flaherty of Bacon Flaherty in Randolph said it best when he wrote the following:

"As I am sure you are aware, for the past 20 years, the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has been at the forefront of modernization efforts for Registries of Deeds across the Commonwealth. As a practicing real estate attorney, I frequently work with all of these registries and in my opinion, the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds consistently outperforms others in regards to its modernization and IT support; from advances in research to electronic recording and technology support, the Norfolk Registry has outpaced their peers in virtually all aspects of operation. This has been especially true since the onset of COVID when all of us had to utilize online e-recordings."

"In my opinion and the opinion of many of my colleagues practicing real estate in Norfolk County, the Commissioners' decision to eliminate the on-site CIO and IT staff is a shortsighted one. As you are aware, technology is constantly advancing, thus modernization efforts must continue. A decision to eliminate these crucial services would make these continued efforts impossible. Businesses and citizens of Norfolk County have come to rely on the Norfolk Registry staff for their service and professionalism."

Quincy Access Television
88 Washington Street
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QATV

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Public Access Channel 8

Thursday, December 9
6:00pm: Bethany Congregational Church
7:00pm: Jazzy Bill's Christmas Special, Part 1

Friday, December 10
11:30am: LIVE: Currently in Quincy
8:00pm: QP5 'Tis the Season Concert

Saturday, December 11
3:00pm: AM Quincy: Father Bill's/MainSpring
3:35pm: In the Know: Wreaths Across America

Sunday, December 12
11:30am: Good News
1:00pm: The Call

Monday, December 13
11:30am: LIVE: Currently in Quincy
7:00pm: CIQ Interview: QCAP Fuel Assistance

Tuesday, December 14
7:00am: LIVE: AM Quincy with Joe Catalano
7:00pm: AM Quincy: Mayor Thomas Koch

Wednesday, December 15
6:00pm: Good News
7:00pm: The Call

Government Access Channel 9

Thursday, December 9
3:00pm: Concerts at the Crane: Hungrytown
6:00pm: At Your Library: December Happenings
7:00pm: Lighting the Menorah at Quincy City Hall
7:30pm: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony

Friday, December 10
6:30pm: FYI: Quincy Health Dept: Seasonal Flu
7:00pm: Good Deeds: Norfolk Registry of Deeds

Saturday/Sunday, December 11/12
9:30am: In the Know: Norfolk Sheriff's Office
10:00am: At Your Library: December Happenings
10:30am: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony
12:00pm: City Council 12/6
4:00pm: Board of License Commissioners 12/7
7:00pm: Quincy City Council 12/6
8:30pm: State View: Rep. Bruce Ayers

Monday, December 13
6:30pm: LIVE: City Council incl. Public Hearings

Tuesday, December 14
5:30pm: LIVE: Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, December 15
7:00pm: City Council 12/13

Programming is subject to change.

For a complete list of programs, please visit our website at qatv.org

More Quincy news:

The Quincy Sun.com

Koch: No City Vaccine, Mask Mandates Forthcoming

By SCOTT JACKSON

During a recent interview, Mayor Thomas Koch reiterated that he has no plans to mandate the COVID-19 vaccine and nor will he put in place a new indoor mask requirement.

Koch previously told The Sun over the summer that he would not be imposing a vaccine mandate for municipal workers in the city, adding that the vast majority of city employees were vaccinated at that point. He reiterated his position in an interview last week.

"I've been consistent

on this," he said. "I got the vaccination...but everyone has to make that decision personally. I'm not a guy that insists on the mandate. I think people have to come and make those decisions on their own."

The mayor added that he has not yet received a booster shot but would likely do so.

The city continues to partner with Manet Community Health Center to offer COVID-19 vaccinations, including booster doses, at 180 Old Colony Ave, Koch noted, among other loca-

tions in Quincy and elsewhere. Appointments are recommended. For more information, visit manetchc.org or call 617 376-3000.

Vaccines are also available at pharmacies like CVS and Walgreens, among other locations.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, in its weekly municipal vaccination report issued on Dec. 2, said 84 percent of all Quincy residents have gotten at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 74 percent of all city residents are considered fully vac-

inated.

Gov. Charlie Baker lifted the state's indoor mask mandate in late May and revised those guidelines in July amid the spread of the delta variant of the coronavirus, recommending fully vaccinated individuals wear a mask indoors in public settings if they or a household member are at high risk for severe disease from the virus.

Some communities, including Boston, Cambridge and Somerville, have put in place new indoor mask

mandates since then. Koch, in the recent interview, said he would not be issuing a mask mandate for Quincy.

"I am not going to impose one," he said. "I think people will have to make decisions for themselves."

When asked if he was considering other measures to stop the spread of the virus, Koch said Quincy remains in a good place in terms of new cases and deaths.

"I think we've got to learn to live with this. This is now going to be like the flu for a while," he said.

"I've certainly read little bit about it, listened to certain doctors and folks in the medical community, and I know you've got extremists on both sides, and a lot of the press just really focuses in on the worst of everything all the time, but we are well below the state average on cases and new cases. I think we're doing fine. We're not seeing the deaths we were seeing before. So I think we're going in the right direction, but this winter will tell a lot."

"People die every year from the flu, die every year from pneumonia. We just have to learn to live with. You just can't keep shutting down society."

The seven-day average of new cases statewide increased from 1,222 on Nov. 2 to 3,053 on Dec. 2, according to the DPH. The seven-day average percent positivity for COVID-19 tests in the state was 4.74

percent while in Quincy the percent positivity for tests was 3.28 percent.

A total of 153 deaths had been reported in Quincy from COVID-19 as of Dec. 2, according to information available on the city's website; 141 of those deaths occurred in 2020.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health on Dec. 4 reported the first case of COVID-19 linked to the new omicron variant of the coronavirus in the state. The DPH said the infected individual is a female in her 20s from Middlesex County who had recently traveled out of state. The woman, who is fully vaccinated, had experienced mild disease and did not require hospitalization.

Both the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization have declared omicron to be a variant of concern, "though scientists are still working to determine how it may compare with the predominant delta variant in terms of transmissibility and disease severity," the DPH stated.

"All three COVID-19 vaccines in use in the US have been shown to be highly protective against severe disease resulting in hospitalization or death due to known COVID-19 variants and remain the single best way for people to protect themselves, their loved ones, and their community from COVID-19," the department added.

Gasoline Prices Down Two Cents

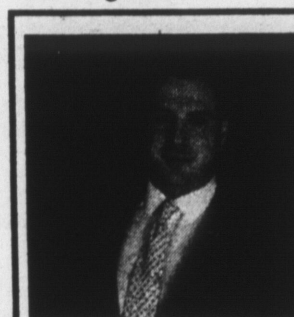
Massachusetts's average gas price is down 2 cents from last week (\$3.42), averaging \$3.40 per gallon. Monday's price is the same as a month ago, and \$1.30 higher than Dec. 6, 2020 (\$2.10). Massachusetts's average gas price is 5 cents higher than the national average.

Pump prices fell as fears of a possible COVID-19 global economic slowdown pushed oil prices into the mid \$60s per barrel—a price not seen since August. Also helping to ease upward pricing pressure was the decision by OPEC and its oil-producing allies not to cut production.

"Consumers may be catching a break at the pump right now, but it's not for a very good reason," says

Mary Maguire, director of Public/Government Affairs. "A potential COVID-19 induced economic slowdown hurts everyone and could prompt OPEC to slash production if oil prices drop too low."

AAA Northeast's Dec. 6 survey of fuel prices found the current national average to be 4 cents lower than last week (\$3.39), averaging \$3.35 a gallon.



Armando Agnitti, Esq., CFSR
Anthony Agnitti, CIC, LIA

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Koch Optimistic About New Contract For Teachers

By SCOTT JACKSON

Mayor Thomas Koch is optimistic the city and the union that represents Quincy's teachers will be able to reach an agreement on a new contract in the near future.

The city has in recent months reached agreements on new contracts with nearly every union representing municipal workers, including firefighters and police officers. Each of those contracts provided a 0 percent raise for fiscal year 2021, which ended June 30, 2021, and a 3 percent raise for fiscal year 2022, which began on July 1 of this year.

The city and the union that represents teachers, the Quincy Education Association, have yet to reach an agreement. The two sides had mutually agreed to put off contract talks near the end of the 2020-21 school year.

Koch, in a recent interview, said the negotiating teams from both parties

planned to meet this Tuesday and was optimistic the two sides could come to an agreement soon that would provide teachers the same raises other city workers have received.

"I'm hopeful," he said of the contract talks. "There is another meeting scheduled for Dec. 7 between the negotiating teams. I'm certainly hopeful that we get there. I don't know what else I can say."

"We're negotiating in good faith, so I certainly don't want to violate any of those guidelines, but it is my hope the teachers will settle for what every other union in the city has settled for. That's my hope."

When asked if there was any wiggle room on the salaries, Koch reiterated his prior comment.

"I guess I'll repeat what I said: I would settle tomorrow with the teachers for the same that everybody else got," he stated. "Everything up to that point is a negotiat-

ing tool."

Of the dozen or so unions representing municipal workers, only the Quincy Education Association and the Teamsters, which represents school bus drivers, have yet to come to terms on a new contract, Koch said.

"There is one other school union which is always the last one to settle, and that is the Teamsters, which includes the bus drivers. But everybody else has settled, so I'm hoping that we'll get wrapped up very soon," the mayor said, later adding that the Teamsters union typically waits until after the teachers sign a new contract to finalize theirs.

While the city is negotiating the new contract for the current and prior fiscal year with the QEA, Koch said talks have already begun with other unions on new deals that would come into effect next July.

"We're already negotiating now with other unions

about a three-year contract, which would start July 1 of next year, because these things take time," he said.

The city's department heads received a 0 percent raise in FY21 and will get a 3 percent raise in FY22, matching the raises given to unionized employees, Koch said. Elected officials have not received raises, he added.

The current fiscal year's budget includes a \$5.7 million line item for the salary increases; the budget was approved in June before the unions reached agreements on new contracts.

"We made an assumption and put a set aside in the budget for the entire city to get a 3 percent raise just to have it in their so you're not fouling up the works," Koch said.

All told there are some 2,500 employees who work for the city, the mayor said, the vast majority of whom belong to unions.

READERS FORUM

It's Time To Reinstate Face Covering Mandate

We seem to be living in a bizarre, dualistic world where the airport terminals are jammed at Thanksgiving; the Holiday Pops are back, the Garden rocks to the cheers of Celtics and Bruins fans, and numerous interviewees on the street emphasize "how nice it is that we're getting back to normal". Then someone says the word "Omicron" and half the population goes bonkers while the other half yawns.

Normal? Omicron? I don't see that we're doing very well with Delta, thank you. We're heading into Winter, the numbers keep rising, and there are no changes to our rules or practices.

I'd like to make a radical suggestion: let's do some-

thing smart. As it stands now, you don't have to be masked to enter public buildings in Quincy. The state face covering mandate was rescinded on May 29th — when the Covid numbers were far lower than now — and decreasing. That is certainly no longer the case and, if the Commonwealth is unwilling to act, the City of Quincy should take the initiative.

Oh yes — I've heard it all. Wearing a mask is a matter of "personal choice". Forcing people to wear a mask is a "violation of their rights". Spare me — their "rights" end as soon as they exhale. If they can hold their breath indefinitely, fine — otherwise, they may be shedding virus into my airspace and I have a right to not be will-

fully endangered by their "personal choice". What about my rights?

Doesn't all this sound familiar? It should — it's the same argument that some smokers used a generation ago: "I have a right to smoke wherever I want, whenever I want." Ultimately most reasonable people, both smokers and nonsmokers, recognized that innocent bystanders shouldn't be forced to inhale the secondary smoke. The only difference is that we could all see the smoke — while the virus is invisible to the naked eye. Otherwise, as Yogi Berra once said, "It's déjà vu all over again."

And then there's the argument that masks are ineffective. No one is claiming that they're a panacea but, if

they're ineffective, why is it that I can't set foot in a doctor's office without wearing one? And why is it that all the doctors, nurses, dentists and other healthcare providers are wearing them? My doctor knows that I'm vaccinated — he has my medical record — but he doesn't say, "Hey, you're vaccinated — so you don't have to wear a mask."

So, how about it? Can't we at least make our public buildings as safe as possible for our vulnerable citizens? We pay taxes, too; we have rights, too. Can't we access our public buildings without incurring undue risk? It's time to reinstate the face covering mandate.

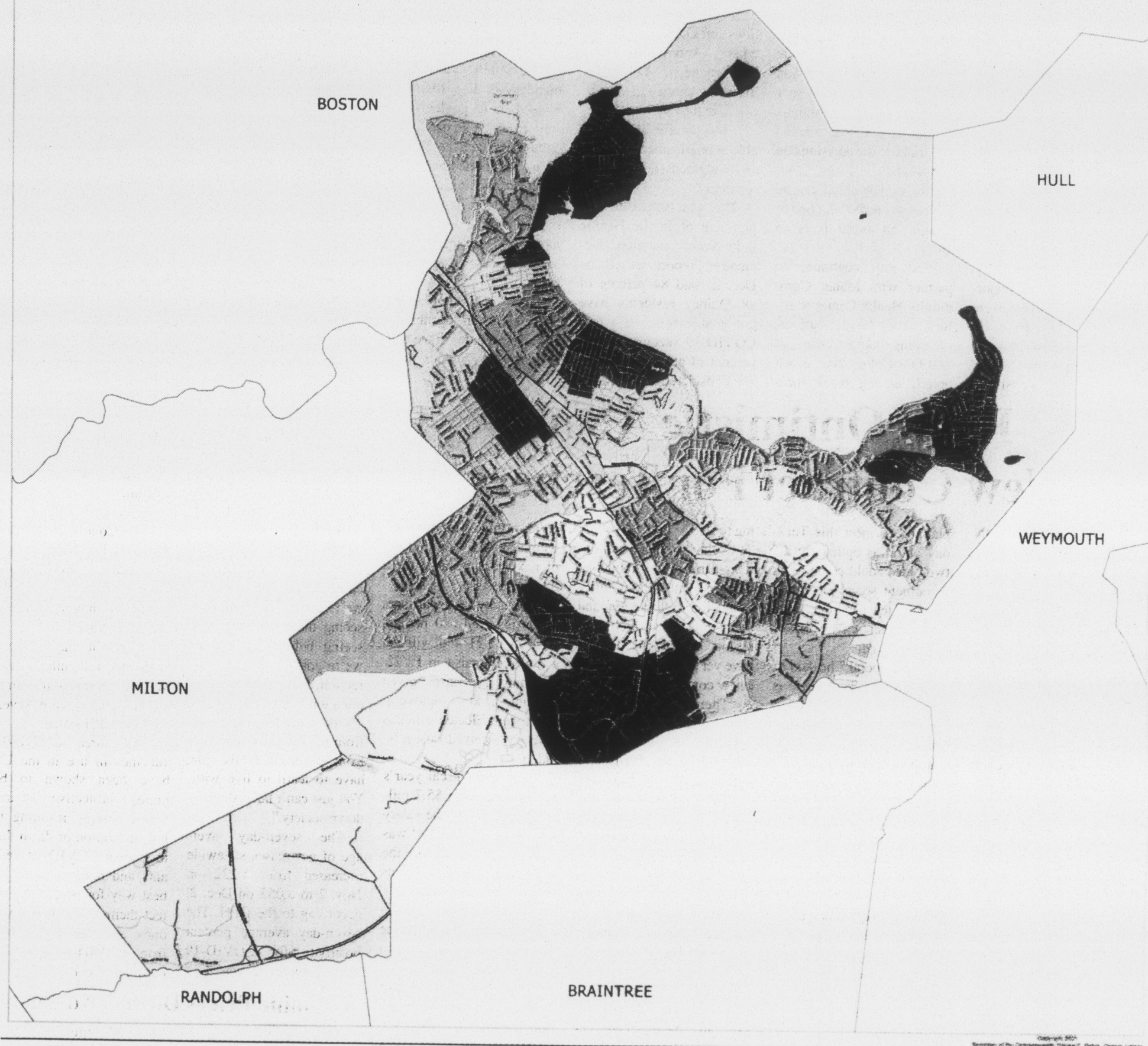
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Councillors Approve Revised Ward, Precinct Map

By SCOTT JACKSON

City councillors on Monday approved a revised ward and precinct map for Quincy to reduce the number of precincts that will be split between two or more state legislative districts from eight to one.

Councillors approved the new maps in an 8-0 vote on Monday evening. Ward 1 Councillor David McCarthy was not present for the meeting.

Councillors had approved a ward and precinct map, drafted by City Clerk Nicole Crispo, on Oct. 4. Ward 4 Councillor Brian Palmucci on Monday, however, said legislative districts subsequently approved by state lawmakers "ruined" the map Crispo had first introduced, prompting the city clerk to propose the revisions.

"Unfortunately, despite

her great effort, the state legislature in their discretion passed a statewide map that essentially ruined the maps that Nicole had created," Palmucci said. "It wasn't just limited to Quincy. This was a problem across the state."

Palmucci noted one of the precincts in his ward would have been divided between three different state legislative districts if the revisions made on Monday were not approved.

"I can't imagine trying to administer an election that has that as an issue," he said. "It's just a logistical nightmare and unfortunately that's what we were saddled with in Quincy by the legislature."

"Luckily, we have Nicole, who is excellent at her job, and she was able to again go back and recalibrate the wards and pre-

cincts based on what the legislature had provided."

City Council President Nina Liang thanked Crispo for her poise and professionalism during the process.

"At the end of the day, you know you need to get things done and you just go in and put your head down and get things done," Liang

said. "You've been nothing but professional throughout this process, so thank you."

Crispo on Tuesday said one precinct – Precinct 5 in Ward 4 – would have been split between three state representative districts and seven other precincts would have divided between two

City of Quincy



Map Prepared for the City of Quincy
Courtesy of William F. Galvin, Census Liaison
Secretary of the Commonwealth

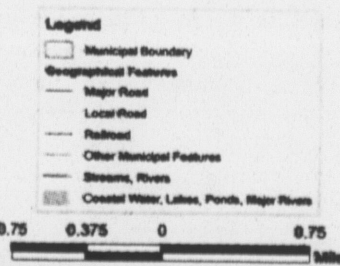
2020 Population - 101,636

Minimum 5%	Target Population	Maximum 5%
3,219	3,388	3,557

Precinct Boundaries Quincy

Ward / Precinct	2020 Population	Variance
1-1	3,220	-4.96
1-2	3,395	0.21
1-3	3,324	-1.89
1-4	3,259	-3.81
1-5	3,392	0.12
2-1	3,509	3.57
2-2	3,494	3.13
2-3	3,280	-3.78
2-4	3,509	3.57
2-5	3,240	-4.37
3-1	3,328	-1.77
3-2	3,297	-2.89
3-3	3,313	-2.21
3-4	3,581	4.22
3-5	3,555	4.99
4-1	3,555	4.99
4-2	3,515	3.75
4-3	3,544	4.60
4-4	3,415	0.80
4-5	3,456	2.01
5-1	3,271	-3.45
5-2	3,241	-4.34
5-3	3,296	-2.72
5-4	3,358	-0.89
5-5	3,312	-2.24
6-1	3,471	2.45
6-2	3,298	-2.66
6-3	3,502	3.36
6-4	3,323	-1.92
6-5	3,453	1.92

Population is based on the official U.S. 2020 Census, March 2021 data.
Boundaries effective December 31, 2021



Cont'd On Page 34

Scenes From The 68th Annual Quincy Christmas Parade




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CHRISTMAS PARADE PHOTOS (clockwise from top left): The 68th annual Quincy Christmas Parade passes through Quincy Center. The parade begins at the intersection of Hancock Street and Mayor Walter J. Hannon Parkway and ends at North Quincy High School. Council President Nina Liang and Mayor Tom Koch were among the elected officials marching in this year's parade held Nov. 28. Sparky the Fire Dog greets parade goers. Norfolk Sheriff Pat McDermott, left, leads the singing of Christmas Carols on the Quincy Rotary Club float that won third place.

*Quincy Sun photos
Tom Gorman*

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PHOTO BOTTOM RIGHT – Uncle Sam Rounseville and his wife, Jean Kenney, ride the parade route in an open convertible. More parade photos on Page 19.

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Quincy Christmas Parade Scenes



FRIENDS OF QUINCY RECREATION won the Father Thomas Tierney trophy as the grand prize winner in the non-commercial category at the 68th Quincy Christmas Parade.



QUINCY HIGH SCHOOL float won first place in the 68th annual Quincy Christmas Parade.



HALLAMORE CLYDESDALE HORSES make their way along the parade route.



THE QUINCY 400 float winds through Quincy Center during the 68th Quincy Christmas Parade Nov. 28.



QUINCY PARK CONSERVANCY float won fourth place.



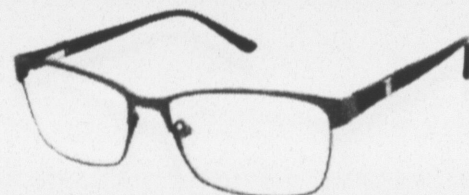
THE INTELYCARE FLOAT won the Best Commercial Float prize in this year's Quincy Christmas Parade.
Quincy Sun Photos/Tom Gorman



NORTH QUINCY HIGH SCHOOL float paying tribute to stores that once graced Quincy Center won second place.



THE GRINCH hitches a ride on the back of a Quincy DPW truck.



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Three Indoor Trees For The Holidays

By MELINDA MYERS

Add a small-scale living evergreen to your holiday celebrations. Consider one that is suitable for growing indoors so you can enjoy it throughout the year.

The Lemon Cypress makes a great miniature holiday tree, centerpiece, or gift for a friend. The fragrant chartreuse foliage of this dwarf evergreen continues to brighten your winter décor long after the holidays are over. You can find them as topiaries or in their more natural pyramidal form.

Grow them in a sunny window and turn the plants occasionally to ensure all parts receive equal sunlight and grow evenly. You'll have the best results if you keep your plant in a cool location free of cold and hot air drafts.

Water your mini holiday tree whenever the top few inches of soil are dry. Wait

until spring when plants begin to actively grow and need a nutrient boost before applying fertilizer.

The Norfolk Island pine has long been a favorite of indoor gardeners. Its pine-like appearance makes it a great holiday tree. Add a bit of garland and a few small ornaments for a festive effect.

Grow this plant in a cool, well-lit location free of drafts of hot and cold air. Avoid dry air and soil to keep the needles and branches green, flexible, and healthy. Water thoroughly whenever the soil is just slightly moist. Boost the humidity around this and other plants with a gravel tray. Place pebbles and water in the saucer. Set the pot on the pebbles above the water. As the water evaporates, it increases the humidity around the plant.

Switch out the ornaments when celebrating other holi-

days. Use hearts for Valentine's Day, eggs for Easter and orange lights for Halloween.

Rosemary wreath and tree topiaries are festive as well as fragrant and edible. Give the leaves a pet to enjoy the fragrance and lift your spirits. Or pluck a sprig to add welcome flavor to your winter meals and beverages.

Rosemary was as popular a Christmas plant as mistletoe and holly until the 20th Century. It's not clear why this plant fell out of favor, but it is growing in popularity as a holiday plant. You can find it in many garden centers and florists this time of year.

Rosemary represents love and remembrance, a great sentiment to share during the holidays. Growing Rosemary indoors can be challenging. Don't let past failures stop you from trying. Just keep experimenting

until you find the location and maintenance routine that keeps your Rosemary thriving. If the plant turns brown, move it out of sight to the back of your indoor garden. It still smells good when you give it a pet and no one, but you will know.

Change things up this season with the addition of one or more of these indoor evergreen trees. They are sure to brighten your spirits and holiday décor.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *The Midwest Gardener's Handbook* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her web site is www.melindamyers.com.



NORFOLK ISLAND PINE makes a great indoor holiday tree especially when combined with holiday plants or decorated with garland and small ornaments.

Photo Courtesy of MelindaMyers.com

Prep Trees For Winter: Outsmart Jack Frost By Planning Ahead Now

Cold weather in Quincy means the leaves have fallen, and the trees are bare. Luckily, local tree experts say now is a great time to get outside to admire and ensure all your trees are healthy.

"Think of winterizing as preparation for spring," says George Barth, an ISA Certified Arborist® at Hartney Greymont, a Davey company. "Some plants require extra protection from harsh conditions and salt."

Barth says the better you care for your landscape in the winter, the less you have to get it ready for the spring. Trees will emerge healthier and perform better when they awaken from dormancy. On the flip side, if plants enter winter stressed, their problems will only worsen.

Regardless of what weather lies ahead, play it safe, and keep your trees in pristine condition this winter with these tips.

Prep Trees for Winter with the Fall Five:

1. Mulch, Hydrate and Feed. Mulching, watering and fertilization are important throughout the year, so



head outside while you still have time to get your trees the nutrients they need for the long, wintry months. Barth urges homeowners to add at least a 2-4-inch blanket of mulch over as much of the root zone as possible. Apply a slow-release fertilizer to help keep trees nourished all winter long. Come spring, your trees will be

blooming and ready to show off. And don't forget about giving newly planted trees one last deep watering.

2. Dormant Pruning. Removing dead, diseased, or unsafe branches helps trees maintain a safe structure and tolerate high winds. Certified arborists specialize in knowing just what branches to remove (and how to do

it) to reduce hazards. Well-maintained, properly pruned trees are less likely to break and cause damage in heavy wind, rain, and snow.

3. Keep pests away. Apply dormant oil in the fall to stop insect larvae from developing further. While dormant oils eliminate harmful pests, they're less toxic to beneficial bugs. In spring,

you'll have fewer bugs gnawing on fresh tree buds and fruit.

4. Inspect. If you see a tree bending or drooping because of snow and ice accumulation, think twice before shaking the branches. Branches coated in ice can become quite brittle - shaking them can cause damage

or breakage. Also, since trees are flexible, suddenly knocking the ice weight off may cause branches to snap back, potentially damaging the tree. Properly pruned tree should be able to withstand heavy snow and ice.

5. Hold the Salt. Rock salt damage can make winter unpleasant for your trees. Salt runoff washes into the soil and can be taken up by the roots causing disfigured foliage, stunted growth, severe decline and even death. Applying the gypsum to trees, plants and lawns now will help reduce the damage from the get-go.

Follow these guidelines to help trees stand strong all winter. If your trees need help, contact your local arborist at <https://www.davey.com/residential-tree-services/find-a-local-office/>.

The Davey Tree Expert Company provides research-driven tree services, grounds maintenance and environmental consulting for residential, utility, commercial and environmental partners in the U.S. and Canada.

Eversource, BBB Offer Ways To Avoid Becoming A Victim This Winter

With winter months and the holidays right around the corner, Eversource and the Better Business Bureau (BBB) are teaming up to urge New Englanders to be aware of scammers.

Due to a spike in COVID-19-related scams, the colder weather and increased demand for energy nationwide, Eversource and the BBB expect to see a rise in utility scams in the coming weeks. Sophisticated scammers are always working to find unique schemes to take advantage of, so it's

vital residents and businesses know how to spot tell-tale signs of a scam before falling victim.

"These scammers - often sounding legitimate and quite convincing - may threaten to shut off electric service immediately unless instant payment is made, sometimes with a prepaid debit card, which should be a red flag," said Eversource Executive Vice President, Customer Experience and Energy Strategy Penni Conner. "Scammers are constantly changing their

tactics to take advantage of unsuspecting customers and prey on people when they feel most vulnerable, like during the holidays. That's why we're warning customers to beware - if they get a call or text and something doesn't seem right - don't panic and don't pay and remember - we will never threaten to disconnect service or demand instant payment over the phone."

Another tactic being used is the overpayment scam, when scammers call claiming that the person overpaid

their utility bill and request their personal bank account or credit card information to give a refund. Also, due to the popularity of smartphone use, "phishing" or "smishing" scams are increasingly common - when a person receives a text message requesting personal information from scammers pretending to be from a reputable company.

"A common tactic scammers use is creating fear and panic to trick utility customers into making a hasty payment, or providing sensi-

tive personal information," said Better Business Bureau Chief Marketing & Sales Officer for Massachusetts Paula Fleming. "Impostors will typically contact customers with a telephone call claiming to be a representative from the utility company. Often, they will claim payment is overdue and that the utility will shut off power within the hour if the bill is not paid immediately. We want to make sure consumers know how to spot the red flags of utility scams so that they can protect themselves

if they're targeted. Customers should never give out their personal information or utility account information, unless they have initiated the call and know the identity of the company they are speaking with. If you receive a suspicious call, hang up and call your utility back directly."

Tips to help avoid becoming a victim:

- Eversource representatives never demand instant payment over the phone, don't require the use of

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Quincy College Welcomes New Faculty Members

Business, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Ed

Quincy College announces three additions to the faculty in its division of Liberal Arts and Professional Programs.

John Mollica, Ph.D., has joined the Business Department as an assistant professor of business management. He received his doctorate in business administration from Trident University in Cypress, CA, and his master's degree in business administration from Bryant College.

Dr. Mollica has been an instructor and lecturer at Nichols College, Regis College and Providence College, as well as at Bristol Community College and Community College of Rhode Island. He also been a small business owner and has served as a consultant for a wide range of businesses. His scope of experience is particularly valuable as the college launches its Bachelor's degree program in Business Management.

Suzanne Thibault, MS, an adjunct faculty member in the college's Criminal Justice program for the past six years, has been appointed

as an assistant professor. She earned her master's degree in criminal justice with a certification in criminal justice administration from Curry College and recently completed a 34-year career with the Mass. Department of Correction. She has been a speaker and presenter at the Mass. Association of Criminal Justice Education, the National Law Enforcement & Corrections Technology Conference, and Boston University's criminal justice master's degree program.

Daniel Gonzalez, Ed. D., has joined the college as an assistant professor in Early Childhood Education. He received his doctorate in curriculum, teaching, learning and leadership from Northeastern University, and his master's degree in educational studies from Wheelock College. Dr. Gonzalez began his career path by earning an Associate's degree in early childhood education from Mass. Bay Community College. He has extensive experience as both a teacher and ad-

ministrator in various early childhood educational settings.

"Each of these accomplished instructors brings a unique combination of educational and professional experience to our campus," said Quincy College President Dr. Richard DeCristofaro. "We're privileged to have them join a faculty whose breadth and depth of expertise is such a benefit to our students."

Quincy College is a two-year, municipally affiliated community college serving approximately 4,000 students at campuses located in Quincy and Plymouth. Quincy College is an open access institution that encourages academic achievement and excellence, diversity, economic opportunity, community involvement and lifelong learning. The college offers 37 Associate degree programs and 32 certificate programs in a variety of disciplines and is the first two-year college in Massachusetts to offer a four-year degree in Business Management.

Two Woodward School Soccer Players Named 2021 League All Stars

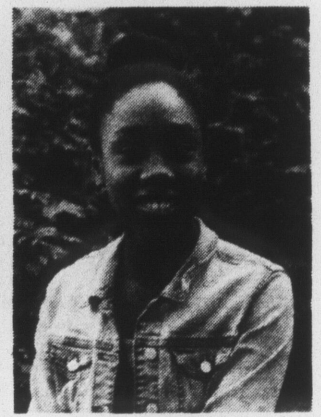
Two students at the Woodward School in Quincy – Elizebeth Kowlski '26 (forward/mid-fielder) and Laila Whyte '26 (goal-keeper) – have been named to the 2021 Girls Independent League Soccer All-Star Team.

Elizebeth Kowlski, a resident of Hanson, was also named as the G.I.L. 2021 CO-MVP (Most Valuable Player) on the strength of her amazing 42-goal season.

Laila Whyte is a resident of Boston.



ELIZEBETH KOWLSKI



LAILA WHYTE

The Woodward School is an independent, secular all-girls school offering grades

6 – 12. To learn more: www.thewoodwardschool.org.

Quincy College Hoop Faces ENC For Sheets Cup

College basketball bragging rights in the City of Presidents will be on the line when Quincy College squares off against the Eastern Nazarene College junior varsity on Tuesday, Dec. 14, in the finale of a two-game battle for the second annual Jim Sheets Cup.

The game will be held at 7 p.m. at the Lahue Physical Education Center on the Eastern Nazarene campus. Quincy College won the series' first game in October.

The Sheets Cup competition was created to honor the impact and legacy

of former Quincy mayor James Sheets, who also was a member of the faculty at both colleges. The games this year mark the resumption of the event after a one-year hiatus because of the Covid-19 pandemic

Ask Barbara Graceffa: 'Secretary Of The Interior'

Get A Designer Christmas Tree In Five Easy Steps

How do I decorate my Christmas tree to look "magazine worthy? Lori

Oh, what a great question! In order to decorate a Christmas tree like a pro, begin by breaking down the tree into five components and pay special attention to each: the lights, tree topper, garland, ornaments, and what's under the tree. However, you can still have a great designer look by focusing on just the tree topper and ornaments.

Start with the lights and my recommendation, don't skimp. You should have one string of 100 lights for every foot of tree height. In other words, if your tree stands seven feet tall, place seven strings on your tree.

Then, think outside the typical box and replace the angel or star atop your tree this year. Try a floral arrangement with silk or dried flowers, greenery, or even feathers and painted twigs adorned with a silky, plaid flannel, or burlap ribbon with cascading curls. Or maybe a giant bowl with long tails or a snowman's black top hat, large bells, a teddy bear, or gnome at the top. A quick look on Pinterest made me smile to find other ideas including a globe, white antlers, giant snowflake, faux gingerbread house, a red cardinal, Santa cap, or upside-down elf legs.

Next, add the garland. This might surprise you because many people place

this later after ornaments. The garland can be ribbon, paper (one of my favorites over the years was accordion-folded paper nutcrackers garland), or beads of crystal or wood. Personally, I prefer bows over garland and my tree has simple red plaid single bows alongside multi-strand thin white ribbon bows with eight-inch tails.

More is more when it comes to ornaments and I use this term in the broadest sense. If you like the look of traditional ornaments, add more of them. Or switch it up by adorning your tree with Christmas stockings, cards, photos, or a thematic or color-coordinated look. Add oversized letters with your monogram or spell out short words like "joy" or "noel." Or sprinkle fake snow on the branches, pinecones, and floral pics to get that designer look.

Finally, under the tree, choose an unusual tree skirt with your favorite blanket,

afghan, quilt, decorator fabric, piece of burlap, or a couple furry rugs. Pepper in existing dolls, toy trucks, train set, or Christmas village with your wrapped gifts. Or consider putting the gifts in decorative boxes or large rattan baskets for a change.

So put on the holiday tunes, pour yourself a tall glass of eggnog, reminisce where you bought or who gifted you the special ornaments, and have fun decorating your designer tree.

Barbara Graceffa owns and operates Secretary of the Interior in Quincy, offering creative solutions at reasonable rates. Learn more about her decorating, downsizing, decluttering, and home staging services at www.sec-interior.com, read more decorating advice at secretaryinteriordecorating.blog and enjoy her quilt art on Instagram /secretaryinteriordecorating.

You can reach her at 617-921-6033.

First Baptist Church Of Wollaston

First Baptist Church of Wollaston, 81 Prospect Ave., Quincy, is open for everyone.

For those who have not fully vaccinated, continue to wear mask and safe distance. However, on-line worship will continue.

The online dial-in/Zoom weekly meeting schedule:

• Sunday 9:30 a.m. Vietnamese Worship Ser-

vice @ Fellowship Hall: Pastor Duc

• Sunday 10:30 a.m. English Worship Service – Interim Pastor: Rev Bill Swilling

• Thursday 6:30 PM Bible Class – Book of Revelation – Pastor Paul Lee

• Friday 11 a.m. Prayer Group Meeting

For more information call 617-472-0824.

O'Donnell: Real Estate Market 'Sluggish' Entering Winter Months

Cont'd From Page 12

County Registry of Deeds has partnered with Quincy Community Action Programs, 617-479-8181 x376, and NeighborWorks Housing Solutions, 508-587-0950 to help anyone facing challenges paying their mortgage. Another option for homeowners is to contact the Massachusetts Attorney General's Consumer Advocacy and Response Division (CARD) at 617-727-8400.

"If you are having difficulty paying your monthly mortgage, please consider contacting one of these non-profit agencies for help and guidance," O'Donnell said.

Homestead recordings by owners of homes and condominiums decreased this year at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds in October. There was a 2% decrease in homestead recordings in November 2021 compared to November 2020.

"A Homestead," noted O'Donnell, "provides limited protection against the forced sale of an individual's primary residence to satisfy unsecured debt up to \$500,000. It is great to see folks protecting the big-

gest asset most of us have, our homes. I would urge anyone who has not availed themselves of this important consumer protection tool to consider doing so. Please visit the Registry website at www.norfolkdeeds.org to get more information on homestead protection."

O'Donnell concluded: "Without question November was a mixed bag month for real estate activity in Norfolk County. Available real estate inventory continues to be a constant source of concern in Norfolk County. It's especially been a problem for first-time homebuyers attempting to crack the market. Also, things may be slowing down compared to past real estate indicators.

"The Registry of Deeds was operational every work day during the pandemic. The Registry of Deeds continues to be open to the public for business, however that is being evaluated as the COVID-19 developments unfold. The drop-off box located at the main entrance of the Registry Building for the time being will continue to be available for use by those members of the public who may not be comfort-

able in entering the Registry of Deeds Building. Land documents are being recorded electronically for many of our institutional users. We are also receiving documents in person, via regular mail, Federal Express and from those placed in our drop-off box located just outside our main entrance at 649 High St., Dedham."

To learn more about these and other Registry of Deeds events and initiatives, like us at facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds or follow us on twitter.com/NorfolkDeeds and instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds is located at 649 High St. in Dedham. The Registry is a resource for homeowners, title examiners, mortgage lenders, municipalities and others with a need for secure, accurate, accessible land record information.

All land record research information can be found on the Registry's website www.norfolkdeeds.org.

Residents in need of assistance can call the Registry of Deeds Customer Service Center at (781) 461-6101, or email registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.



QUINCY HIGH SCHOOL students virtually participated in Yale's Model Congress on Dec. 3rd and 4th. Top row (from left to right) Jacob Lustig, Almona Vojkollari, Sam Spendlove, Skyla Whelan and Victoria Bentley. Bottom row: Natalya Desmond, Jose Betancourt (QHS class of 2020 attending Yale, and committee chairperson), Sabrina Egan, Yu Fan Mei and Meg McMillen (QHS advisor). Photo Courtesy Quincy High School

Quincy High At Yale Model Congress

Quincy High School students virtually participated in Yale's Model Congress on Dec. 3rd and 4th.

The eight-member delegation was able to pass six

of their bills in Committee, and one in the full house. Quincy High's proposed legislation included loan forgiveness for military veterans, investing in ocean oil-

spill technology, allowing cell phones in and throughout federal court buildings, and withholding federal aid from Pakistan.

Natalya Desmond, sena-

tor in the Judiciary Committee, received honorable mention recognition for her stellar participation throughout the congress.

MA-841st AFJROTC Evaluation 2021-2022

The Air Force Junior ROTC instructors and cadets of North Quincy High School in Quincy earned an overall unit assessment score of "Exceeds Standards" – the highest rating attainable – during their evaluation on Nov. 12.

Master Sergeant (Ret) John DeLorenzo has created a dynamic and supportive learning environment coupled with an excellent community outreach. The instructor has provided outstanding leadership in administering the cadet-centered citizenship program. The North Quincy High School cadets performed exceptionally well and took great pride in leading and accomplishing their unit goals. The North Quincy High School Air Force ROTC citizenship program is making a positive impact on the cadets, the school and the community.

The corps has also been working very hard to prepare for their unit inspection. Every three years, the JROTC program has a unit inspection. During this time, an inspector comes to the school to inspect the corps. At 6:15 in the morning, he inspected the corps' uni-



THREE NORTH QUINCY High School students were recently presented the Air Force Junior ROTC Top Performer award. From left to right are cadets C/ Major Shayla Truong, C/ Major Ashley Morash, and C/ Captain Tina Hoang. Photos Courtesy NQHS



NORTH QUINCY HIGH SCHOOL Air Force Junior ROTC Cadets

form wear, the sophomores' 30-step drill routine, and the classes throughout the day. He also presented the Top

Performer award—given to only 2% of all cadets in the region—to three cadets:

C/ Major Shayla Truong, C/ Major Ashley Morash, and C/ Captain Tina Hoang.

BBB Scam Alert: Tracking Code Trick Costs Online Shoppers

By **BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU**

This holiday shopping season, BBB Scam Tracker has received numerous reports about shipping tricks that scammers use to steal from online shoppers. The con artists are exploiting PayPal's policies by delivering incorrect items and using stolen tracking numbers.

How the Scam Works:

People are shopping online and are finding amazing deals, often brand name goods at a significant discount. Often, the items are large – such as pieces of furniture or a vacuum

cleaner. The website and the products look legitimate, so consumers are deciding to take a chance and make a purchase. The site directs them to pay through PayPal, which leads many to believe it's safe.

After checkout, a confirmation email arrives that contains a tracking number from UPS, FedEx, or another shipping service. After a few weeks, the package arrives, but it's not what was expected. For example, one shopper ordered a 6 foot artificial Christmas tree, but "received a bottle brush Christmas tree no bigger

than my hand." Another shopper told BBB that they ordered "a pressured machine washer for \$78..." and received "a yellow shirt that's not worth \$2." In another common version of this scam, the package is delivered... but to the wrong address.

When consumers try to correct the mistake, they are finding that the ecommerce site is either unresponsive or unhelpful. In some cases, the site doesn't provide contact information; in others, no one responds to emails or calls.

Some scam victims re-

port filing claims with PayPal in order to get a refund. PayPal's protection promise says customers can open a dispute if the package never arrives, if the item received is counterfeit or differs significantly from what was ordered. However, not all claims were resolved to the buyer's satisfaction. For example, one shopper reported the following experience after ordering a desk online and filing a dispute through PayPal. "I was contacted by PayPal and told they had found in favor of the seller. They had apparently received confirmation

of delivery of said desk to my house according to the tracking number... PayPal did not give me any option to discuss their decision, to argue why they found in favor of the seller. They just closed the case."

BBB contacted PayPal about the BBB Scam Tracker reports. After looking into the stolen tracking code issue, they replied: "We notified various shipping carriers of this issue allowing tracking data to be stolen and we believe it has been closed. In addition, we made enhancements to our algorithms to identify and

disable these fraudulent bad actors. In fact, we are stopping a significant majority of these fraudulent sellers at first transaction through our detection program and have refunded customers impacted by this fraud scheme even if they did not appeal our decision."

Protect Yourself from a Package Delivery Scam:

• **Before paying, know your rights and responsibilities.** In everything from check cashing scams to cons involving new peer-to-peer payment systems, scammers often take advantage of

Continued Page 24



CADET STAFF SERGEANT JASON LI

NQHS's Jason Li Receives Air Force Junior ROTC Flight Academy Scholarship

Selected For Private Pilot Certificate Training Program

Cadet Staff Sergeant Jason Li, an Aerospace Science Level 3 Air Force Junior ROTC cadet at North Quincy High School, has received a scholarship to attend an accredited aviation university participating in a Private Pilot Certificate training program in the summer of 2022.

Cadet Staff Sergeant Jason Li is one of 200 Air Force Junior ROTC cadets around the world to receive the scholarship from Headquarters Air Force Junior ROTC, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL. More than 1,300 cadets applied for one of the 200 scholarships. There are almost 120,000 high school students enrolled in Air Force Junior ROTC programs at approximately 870 high schools in the U.S. and overseas.

The scholarship covers transportation, room and board, academics and flight hours required to potentially earn a Private Pilot Certificate. The scholarship is valued at approximately

\$22,500.

The Air Force Junior ROTC Flight Academy Scholarship Program is an Air Force-level initiative in collaboration with the commercial aviation industry to address the national civilian and military pilot shortage. The Flight Academy allows aspiring young aviators to get their Private Pilot's Certification, at no cost, during an eight-week summer course at partner universities. Those who participate in the program will earn a college transcript but do not incur a military commitment to the Air Force or other branch of service, nor does completing the program guarantee acceptance into one of the military's commissioning programs.

The mission of Air Force Junior ROTC is to develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community, while instilling values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and sense of accomplishment.

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FREE 40" glass top, round patio table with 2 chairs: FREE 617-471-5767	SCHOLARSHIPS LOST COIN WOMEN'S FUND Providing academic scholarships to low-income Massachusetts women for 30 years. To apply for a grant: lostcoinwomensfund.org	MISCELLANEOUS Silk Screening done by RICH THE T-SHIRT MASTER For customized screening, call 617-472-8658	PHYSICAL THERAPY Quincy Physical Therapy Don't let pain change the way you live. Get on the right track today! All insurances accepted Call 617-481-2000	Weatherite Roofing & Remodeling Co. Many Roof Repairs Under \$300 • All Gutter Work New Roofs: Shingle, Slate, Copper, Rubber All Decks, Porches, Wood Rot 508-942-4200 WeatheriteRoofingMA@yahoo.com	Want to pick up a copy of The Quincy Sun? Here are stores in Quincy that sell it on their newsstands:

GOODIE'S STORE 1250 Hancock St., Presidents Place	DAILY MART 291 Quincy Ave.	COPELAND LIQUORS 273 Copeland St.	COFFEE BREAK CAFE 12 Old Colony Ave.
NEW STORE ON THE BLOCK 1183 Hancock St., Quincy Ctr. T Stn.	ROCHE BROS. The Falls	7-11 Copeland St.	SUPREME LIQUORS 615 Hancock St.
HANCOCK MARKET 1520 Hancock St.	WALGREENS 418 Quincy Ave.	JOE'S PLACE 260 Centre St.	SQUANTUM MKT. 205 W. Squantum St.
MIGNOSA'S FRUIT BASKET 138 Granite St.	ARTERY GROCERY 1000 Southern Artery	CORNER FOOD MKT. 1060 Hancock St.	STOP & SHOP 65 Newport Ave.
STAR MARKET 130 Granite St.	7-11 495 Washington St.	200 FOOD MART 200 Sea St.	7-11 363 Hancock St.
WALGREENS 132 Granite St.	DAIRY FARM 330 Washington St.	ADAMS SHORE SUPERMARKET 494 Sea St.	WALGREENS 324 Hancock St.
FRANKLIN ST. BP 60 Franklin St.	7-11 230 Washington St.	PALMER STREET MARKET 231 Palmer St.	SAM'S VARIETY 125 Billings Rd.
7-11 78 Franklin St.	STOP & SHOP Southern Artery	LUCKY'S WINE & LIQUOR 66 Newbury Ave.	5 CORNER FOOD MART 163 Newbury Ave.
SHOP N SAVE LIQUORS 20 Independence Ave.	CVS Southern Artery	BERNIE'S GENERAL STORE 1147 Sea St.	ATLANTIC MARKET & LIQUORS 247 Atlantic Ave.
ADAMS VARIETY 22 Independence Ave.	WALGREENS 550 Adams St.	WEST ELM VARIETY 139 W. Elm Ave.	CARMINE'S CAFE 69 Huckins Ave.
DONUT + DONUTS + MUFFINS 33 Scammell St.	7-11 650 Adams St.	7-11 721 Hancock St.	7-11 751 E. Squantum St.
PRESIDENTIAL LIQUORS 25 Scammell St.	7-11 678 Adams St.	BEALE ST. NEWS AND TOBACCO 17 Beale St.	LUCKY SHAMROCK 265 Beale St.
	VILLAGE COMMON MARKET 100 Willard St.	CVS 42 Beale St.	EVEREST MARKET 121 Standish Ave.
	GRANITE MART 308 Willard St.		

The Quincy Sun CLASSIFIED AD FORM

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PAYABLE IN ADVANCE. Payment must accompany order.

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☐ Services	1 WEEK	☐ \$9.00 for one insertion, up to 20 words, 10¢ for each additional word.
☐ For Sale	2-4 WEEKS	☐ \$8.00 per insertion up to 20 words for 2-4 insertions of the same ad, 10¢ each additional word.
☐ Autos	5-10 WEEKS	☐ \$7.50 per insertion, up to 20 words, for 5-10 insertions of the same ad 10¢ for each additional word.
☐ Boats	11 WEEKS OR MORE	☐ \$7.00 per insertion, up to 20 words, for 11 or more insertions of the same ad 10¢ for each additional word.
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☐ Day Care		
☐ Personal		
☐ Miscellaneous		

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COPY: _____

NO REFUND WILL BE MADE AT THIS CONTRACT RATE IN THE EVENT OF CANCELLATION. DEADLINE: FRIDAY AT 4PM. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER IN AD.

OBITUARIES

Joseph A. Brill, 66

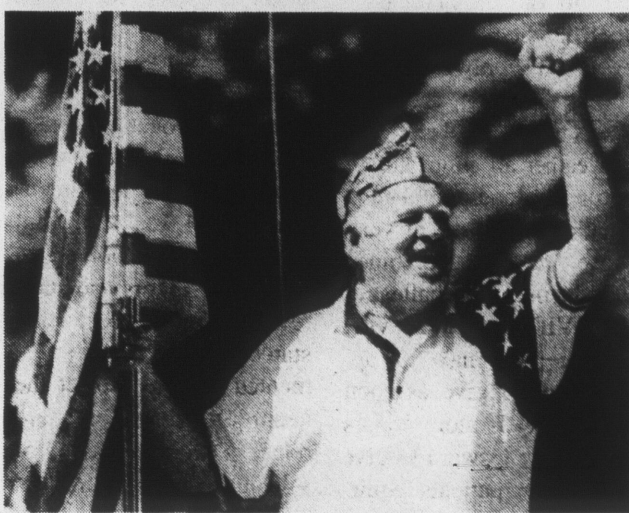
A funeral Mass for Joseph A. "Joe" Brill, age 66, was celebrated Monday at Holy Trinity Parish in Most Blessed Sacrament Church, Quincy.

Mr. Brill died suddenly on Nov. 25.

Raised in Houghs Neck, Quincy. Graduate of Quincy High, Class of 1974. Mr. Brill was a United States Navy veteran. Retired from Delta Airlines after 30 years, also retired from the Mass State Lottery and was currently working as a liaison/manager for the Quincy Parks Dept.

Mr. Brill lived a life of giving back. He was commander of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 294, financial officer for Morrisette Post and assistant chaplain of the Quincy Veterans Council. He took pride in helping veterans. A few things close to his heart was the observance of Flags at Veterans Island in Fort Square, Harvey's Saltwater Fishing Club Vets Day and so much more.

Mr. Brill was the biggest Red Sox fan and was well known and loved by everyone at Fenway, where he has attended more games than you can imagine. He suffered a massive heart attack at Fenway in September



JOSEPH A. BRILL

ber 2013 and then threw out the first pitch almost a year to the day later. Mr. Brill would always thank the first responders who saved his life.

Mr. Brill dedicated many years to coaching and mentoring many kids throughout Little League and many organizations in the City of Quincy. To say that he loved his city was an understatement. Mr. Brill would light up a room and had a presence like no other, his smile and quirky, corny jokes will be missed.

Mr. Brill is survived by his beloved wife Theresa M. Brill; loving father to Victoria Brill of Albany, NY and Andrew Panagrazo of Holbrook. He is also survived by his parents Robert

P. Brill Sr. and Clementine DeAngelis of Houghs Neck; Brother of Donna Rowan of Quincy, Richard Brill of Quincy, Catherine Brill of Braintree, and the late John F. and Robert P. Brill; Also survived by his loving nieces and nephew, Amanda Rowan, Sara Al-Janabi and Adam Al-Janabi.

Interment with Military Honors at Pine Hill Cemetery, Quincy.

Memorial donations may be made to Quincy Veteran Services, 24 High School Ave, Quincy, MA 02169 or the American Heart Association at heart.org.

Funeral arrangements were made by the Dennis Sweeney Funeral Home, 74 Elm St., Quincy.

Leona T. Doran, 94

A funeral Mass for Leona T. (Handrahan) Doran, 94, of Quincy was celebrated Tuesday at Divine Mercy Parish in Sacred Heart Church, Quincy.

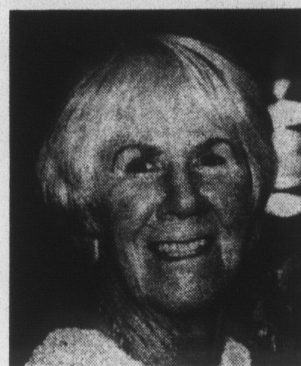
Mrs. Doran died peacefully Nov. 30 at Good Samaritan Medical Center in Brockton.

Born in Pisquid, Prince Edward Island, Canada, on April 17, 1927, she was the daughter of the late Frank and Gertrude (Gillian) Handrahan. She grew up on a farm that overlooked the Pisquid River, one of the most beautiful places in the world, a paradise except for the mosquitos. At the age of 10, Mrs. Doran's father died leaving her 18-year-old brother, six other sisters, and mother to work that farm, where they all learned to work and to take care of each other. She was the first to buy a car (an old Ford Model A that used as much oil as gas) by saving her extra berry picking and egg grader money.

When Leona didn't find a husband, her and her sister Evelyn left home to the "land of opportunity" where there were jobs and no mosquitos. Once in America, they lived on Columbus Avenue in Boston. They would go to "Canadian Dances" where Leona met John G. Doran, a fisherman from Holyrood, Newfoundland, who swept her off her feet. The two married and John went off to do his military duty. Little known fact, John Doran's good buddy, Frank Manning, ended up marrying Leona's sister Evelyn.

John and Leona, both coming from large families, spent much time visiting with them. She worked hard, saved her money, and ended up in North Quincy, a home she loved that constantly evolved. Building that house was a labor of love, her brother-in-law Joseph McIsaac and Winsel Larkin did most of the carpentry, though John and Leona certainly did their part as well.

In the mid '70s, they purchased the family farm in PEI, a place she couldn't part with, even though she



LEONA T. DORAN

was unable to travel to it the past few years. The old farmhouse deteriorated, and a new one was built in the '80s. The bulk of the building was done by John, Leona, young John, and his future wife Robin. They would spend a good part of their summers with family and friends, enjoying their island paradise. They would work on the house, have visitors, play many card games, attended local dances, and church suppers.

Throughout her life Mrs. Doran had many dogs. Most of the time she had to have two dogs, because it was too heartbreaking when one would die. Her last companion was Claudia, a German shepherd rescue from Memphis, who kept her on her toes and gave her lots of company in the last few years.

Mrs. Doran was a nurturer and liked to watch things grow. She always had a garden and over the years it got larger and larger. Then came the problem of what to do with the extra, you can only eat so much. She would end up peddling veggies to many neighbors, family members, or whoever else came by. She would even bring tomatoes to her doctor's appointments.

Mrs. Doran was a woman that always kept busy. From painting the house to cutting the grass, sealing the driveway to shingling her roof, Mrs. Doran was not afraid to get her hands dirty. She would walk her dogs about 5 miles a day up until, she was hit by a car at age 86, at which time she sustained many injuries. It set her back, but she bounced back to a point. Mrs. Doran had trouble staying idle, so to keep her busy, she braided

rugs, made quilts, afghans, knitted hats, scarfs, and sweaters, made all the draperies in the house, stripped and refurbished furniture. She was even known to make some of her own clothes.

She was certainly independent, possibly due to John G. being away a lot and then left for good 10 years ago. Because of some declining health issues, Mrs. Doran had to give up some of her duties. In the later years, she paid someone to paint the house and coat the driveway. She even gave up cutting the grass and snow blowing.

The last two years the climate was against her, and the garden was a little disappointing, but she still got a few tomatoes up to the neighbors. All in all, Mrs. Doran was able to stay in her home with her dog and continue to occasionally drive her car, even though her son was opposed to it. It took the coronavirus to take her down. So please, take this virus seriously, get the vaccine, wear your mask and hopefully it will go away before it takes anyone else.

Mrs. Doran was the beloved wife of the late John G. Doran, who died in 2011. Devoted mother of John W. Doran and his spouse Robin of Greenfield. Loving grandmother of Hillary J. Doran of FL. Dear sister Alicia Woodburn of NH. Preceded in death by her siblings: Ida Ostridge, Zeta McAree, Genevieve McIsaac, Mary St. John, Chester Handrahan, and Evelyn Manning. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Interment at Pine Hill Cemetery, Quincy.

A celebration of Mrs. Doran's life will be held at a later date to be announced.

Memorial donations may be made to your local animal shelter or the charitable organization of one's choice.

Funeral arrangements were made by Keohane Funeral Home, 785 Hancock St., Quincy.

Susan M. Galvin, 78

A funeral Mass for Susan M. Galvin, age 78, of Quincy will be celebrated Thursday at 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Parish, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Quincy.

Ms. Galvin died Dec. 2. She was a graduate of Quincy High School class of 1960.

Ms. Galvin is survived by her loving brothers Ge-

rard and Stephen Galvin.

Visiting hours were 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Dennis Sweeney Funeral Home, 74 Elm St., Quincy.

Interment at Blue Hill Cemetery, Braintree.

Memorial donations may be made St. Jude Children's Hospital at stjude.org/donate.

Peter T. Flowers, 76

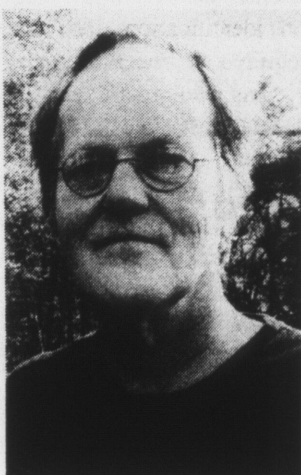
Peter T. Flowers, age 76, of Quincy, formerly of Milton and Dorchester, died peacefully Nov. 30 at John Adams HealthCare Center, in the comfort of his loving family.

Mr. Flowers was born in New York City, N.Y., raised and educated in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Northeastern University.

He lived in Quincy for seven years, previously in Milton for over twenty years, and earlier in Dorchester for fifteen years.

Mr. Flowers was proud to have volunteered with the Peace Corps in the early 1970s, serving in Iran.

He was employed as a mechanical engineer for many years and was proud to start his own business, Actinica, later in his career. Skilled in design, he was



PETER T. FLOWERS

granted seven patents over the course of his career.

A creative person, Mr. Flowers had an interest in photography as well as art. He also enjoyed music, especially Rock 'n Roll, and was a roadie in the 1970s. He was an avid fan of Formula One racing.

Beloved husband for forty-four years of Mary

(D'Aloisio) Flowers. Devoted father of Ashley F. Fleming and her husband Liam of Braintree, and Jake L. Flowers of Berlin, Germany. Loving grandfather of Molly H. and Margot O. Fleming

At the request of the family, services are private.

Memorial donations may be made to John Adams HealthCare Center, 211 Franklin St., Quincy, MA 02169.

The Flowers family would like to acknowledge the staff at John Adams HealthCare Center for the compassionate care provided to Peter over these past many years.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Sweeney Brothers Home for Funerals, 1 Independence Ave., Quincy.

NOTICE TO READERS

Obituaries appearing in The Quincy Sun and posted on the newspaper's website are written by the funeral home handling arrangements with input from the deceased's family.

They are not written by The Quincy Sun. Obituaries are submitted by the funeral homes and are printed in The Sun space permitting.

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OBITUARIES

George J. Wagner, 92

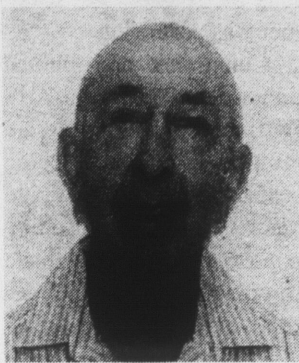
A funeral Mass for George J. Wagner, 92, a lifelong resident of Quincy, will be celebrated Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at Divine Mercy Parish in Sacred Heart Church, Quincy.

Mr. Wagner died peacefully Sunday at Alliance Health West Acres Nursing Rehabilitation in Brockton.

Born in Boston on March 13, 1929, he was the son of the late John J. and Josephine (Vickery) Wagner. He was raised by his adoptive parents, the late George and Margaret Dodd. Mr. Wagner attended local schools and graduated from North Quincy High School with the Class of 1947.

Mr. Wagner worked as a youth director with the Middlesex County Training School for twelve years. He also worked for Catholic Charities for thirteen years. Mr. Wagner was an escort for Beckham Travel Service in Canton. He enjoyed his work and the relationships he built throughout the years.

Known to many as "Un-



GEORGE J. WAGNER

cle George," Mr. Wagner loved the City of Quincy and was very involved with his community. A man of great faith, he was an active communicant of Sacred Heart Church. Mr. Wagner was a regular volunteer at Fr. Bill's Place, the Crane Library, and a Sacred Heart Eucharistic minister. He was also a member of North Quincy Knights of Columbus, the Sacred Heart Holy Name Society, the Sacred Heart Prayer Group, a booster of North Quincy High School, and an honorary member of the North Quincy High School Hall of Fame.

Mr. Wagner was the lov-

ing brother of Loretta Dwyer and her late husband Edward of Maine. He was the dear friend of Marilyn Zimmerman and her late husband Ernie of Quincy, Edward Goodwin and his wife Helen of Canton, George Goodwin and his wife Donna of Saugus, and the late Milly Varner and her surviving husband Fred of Stoughton. George is fondly remembered as "Uncle George" to Mark Zimmerman and his wife Kara of Quincy, Brian Zimmerman of Randolph, and Eric Zimmerman and his wife Maura.

Visiting hours are Thursday from 9 to 10 a.m. in Keohane Funeral Home, 785 Hancock St., Quincy. A celebration of life service will be held in the funeral home at 9:45 a.m. on Thursday.

Interment at St. Mary's Cemetery, Quincy.

Memorial donations may be made to The Jimmy Fund c/o Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168.

Patricia Powers, 94

Patricia "Pat" Powers, age 94, formerly of Houghs Neck, died peacefully on Nov. 25.

She was born on Jan. 31, 1927 in Liverpool, England to Richard and Mary Nolan, and was elder sister to Edward, Richard, and Frederick, all of whom she deeply adored. She was separated from her parents and sent to the English countryside during the Liverpool Blitz of World War II and would years later preserve her memories by regaling her wartime tales to her grandchildren.

After the war, Patricia set sail for America in 1952 to visit her mother's childhood friend, Kathleen. A temporary visit turned into a lifelong stay as Patricia fell in love with Kathleen's son, Edward Powers, with whom she would have four children and enjoy sixty-six wonderful years of marriage.



PATRICIA POWERS

As a celebration of Patricia and Edward's 50th wedding anniversary, the pair arranged a trip to Liverpool and London, England with all of their children and grandchildren. Several beautiful memories were created on this ten day getaway, the stories of which are recounted to this day.

Mrs. Powers was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She was a talented sewer, knit-

ter, and an avid reader. You could often find her in her beloved home overlooking the ocean, curled up on the porch with a good novel and cup of tea.

Mrs. Powers is survived by her husband, Edward, and their children and spouses - Sharon and Thomas Joyce of Braintree; Susan and Robert Molloy of West Roxbury; Lynne and William Crawford of Reading; and Edward and Kathleen Powers of Weymouth. She is also survived by her nine grandchildren, their spouses, and two great grandchildren -

Lauren and Michael Mejaki, and their son, Owen; Kevin Crawford; Nolan and Janessa Powers, and their son, Rowan; Meaghan and Colin Molloy; Olivia and Cameron Powers; and Jacqueline and Liam Joyce. She was dearly loved and will be deeply missed by all.

Private services were held on Dec. 2.

Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association act.alz.org.

Funeral arrangements were made by the Dennis Sweeney Funeral Home, 74 Elm St., Quincy.

Red Cross: Donors Needed Now To Address Historically Low Blood Supply

The American Red Cross, which provides 40 percent of the country's blood, is facing historically low blood supply levels.

Busy holiday schedules, breaks from school and winter weather all contribute to a drop in blood and platelet donations this time of year. Those factors, combined with the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, make it vital for donors to make an appointment to give as soon as possible. If more donors don't come forward to give blood, some patients requiring a transfusion may potentially face delays in care.

Donors are urged to schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). There is no blood donation waiting period for those who have received a flu shot or a Moderna, Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine or booster, so long as they are symptom-free.

To encourage donors to help address the historically low blood supply this holiday season, all who come

to give Dec. 17-Jan. 2 will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last.

Blood drive safety

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions - including face masks for donors and staff, regardless of vaccination status - have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive.

Two Red Cross blood drives are scheduled in Quincy this month.

A blood drive will be held Monday, Dec. 27 from 1 to 7 p.m. at the Quincy Sons of Italy, 120 Quarry St. A second blood drive will be held Wednesday, Dec. 29 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Quincy Yacht Club, 1310 Sea St.

Donors can also save up to 15 minutes at the blood drive by completing a RapidPass®. With RapidPass®, donors complete the pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of donation, from a mobile device or computer. To complete a RapidPass®, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

To donate blood, individuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and

weight requirements.

At a time when health information has never been more important, the Red Cross is screening all blood, platelet and plasma donations from self-identified African American donors for the sickle cell trait. This additional screening will provide Black donors with an additional health insight and help the Red Cross identify compatible blood types more quickly to help patients with sickle cell disease who require trait-negative blood. Blood transfusion is an essential treatment for those with sickle cell disease, and blood donations from individuals of the same race, ethnicity and blood type have a unique ability to help patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Donors can expect to receive sickle cell trait screening results, if applicable, within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App and the online donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org.

LEGAL NOTICE

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. NO21P2006EA
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Norfolk Division
35 Shawmut Road
Canton, MA 02021
(781) 830-1200
Estate of:
Mary Agnes Kelley
Date of Death:
March 10, 2021

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of:
Petitioner Elizabeth A. Kelley of Ipswich, MA
Petitioner James W. Kelley of Rockland, MA
a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Elizabeth A. Kelley of Ipswich, MA and
James W. Kelley of Rockland, MA have been informally appointed as the Personal Representatives of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representatives under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representatives and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioners.

12/9/21



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DIRECTORS

Christopher P. Goulet, Sr.
Michelle A. Lydon

650 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA 02170
HamelLydon.com

More Obituaries
online at

www.TheQuincySun.com



PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSPAPER

BBB Study: Online Shopping Scams Flourish On Social Media During Pandemic

By BETTER
BUSINESS BUREAU

A shift toward online shopping during COVID-19, a global supply chain crisis, and a resurging economy have all created a recipe for a breakneck holi-

LEGAL NOTICE

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. NO21P2910EA
Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Norfolk Probate
and Family Court
35 Shawmut Road
Canton, MA 02021
(781) 830-1200

Estate of:

Charles L. Spencer, Jr.
Also Known As:
Charles L. Spencer
Date of Death:
03/22/2021

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Kristy Bussell of Haverhill, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Kristy Bussell of Haverhill, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 A.M. on the return day of 02/02/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Patricia Gorman, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 30, 2021
COLLEEN M. BRIERLEY
Register of Probate

12/9/21

day shopping season – one where online shopping fraud poses a tremendous risk to consumers.

Online purchase scans have skyrocketed during the pandemic, and social media ads play a key role in the mushrooming problem, a new Better Business Bureau (BBB) study finds.

The in-depth investigative study – Theft on a massive scale: Online shopping fraud and the role of social media – finds the pandemic, along with lax social commerce shopping platforms, has opened the door for scammers in China to steal from desperate online shop-

pers. Read the full study.

Online shopping fraud has been growing for several years, but according to BBB research, it dramatically increased during the pandemic as more people shopped online. A BBB survey found 29% of people shopped online before COVID-19, and this increased to 37% by the end of 2020. In turn, BBB Scam Tracker reports about online shopping scams nearly doubled from 2019 to 2020, and the BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust named online shopping scams as the riskiest scam of 2020, publishing special reports on this

growing fraud in 2020 and 2021. Complaints to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) about online purchases more than doubled in 2020 and continue to increase throughout 2021. Also, online shopping has more BBB "F"-rated companies than any other type of business.

Most online fraud reports examined involve a response to online ads on Facebook and Instagram. After placing an order, victims report receiving nothing or receiving items that were counterfeit or inferior from what the ads promised. Scammers often take product photos or a landing page from legitimate businesses, post them on Facebook and Instagram and take online orders at websites they create. This leads to complaints against legitimate business-

es, as victims often do not realize they have lost their money to a scammer rather than the business the scammer was portraying.

Counterfeit and pirated goods, the subject of a 2019 BBB investigative study, are rampant in online shopping scams. Other online fraud reports involve sites selling non-existing pets, vehicle shipping schemes and deceptive free trial offers.

A large number of online shopping complaints registered at BBB and reports to BBB Scam Tracker can be traced back to Facebook and its subsidiary, Instagram.

BBB found it was common that people who were not actively looking for a product, but lost money in the transaction, began with Facebook or Instagram 70% of the time. Fraudsters understand how Facebook tar-

gets shoppers and have developed strategies to reach those likely to be interested in buying their bogus products. Many victims and legitimate businesses believe that Facebook and Instagram should do more to prevent this widespread fraud. A recent federal class action lawsuit against Facebook contends that it is complicit in fraudulent sales and fails to abide by its own policies in addressing them.

A Republic, Missouri, woman ordered a decanter and two cups via a Facebook ad, but only received one cup. When she contacted the company to complain about how the set was depicted in the ad versus what was received, she was told she had only ordered one cup. They refused to give her a refund, so she contacted BBB.

While credit cards are still the most frequent payment method in online scams, online scammers increasingly are requesting payment through PayPal. Credit cards and PayPal offer a degree of buyer protection by allowing buyers to dispute charges, although scam victims have reported

Cont'd On Page 27

LEGAL NOTICE

CITATION ON PETITION FOR ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT

Docket No. NO20P0212EA
Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Norfolk Probate
and Family Court
35 Shawmut Road
Canton, MA 02021
(781) 830-1200
In the matter of:
Patricia Bey
Date of Death:
December 31, 2019

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: Sara Hartline of Wellesley, MA requesting allowance of the 1st and final account(s) as Special Personal Representative and any other relief as requested in the Petition.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 A.M. on 12/29/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Patricia Gorman, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 26, 2021
COLLEEN M. BRIERLEY
Register of Probate

12/9/21

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF QUINCY

BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138 of the Massachusetts General Laws that an application has been received from Schwanke Bros. Inc., doing business as The Clam Box for (i) a pledge of the Wines and Malt Beverages Restaurant License, (ii) a pledge of stock/business assets and (iii) a pledge of inventory to Rockland Trust all with respect to the premises located at 789 Quincy Shore Drive. A hearing will be conducted at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 using Remote Meeting Access using Zoom Video Communication. Zoom is a third-party communication technology that is readily accessible to the public, but not administered by the City of Quincy. The Zoom Video Link is below. For those without access to Zoom, directions for access via telephone are also below.

Topic: December 21, 2021 License Board Hearing
Time: December 21, 2021 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://quincycollge.zoom.us/j/2309068852>

Meeting ID: 230 906 8852

One tap mobile

+19292056099,2309068852# US (New York)

+13017158592,2309068852# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 230 906 8852

Find your local number: <https://quincycollge.zoom.us/j/kDypqzFG>

12/9/21

Nicole L. Crispo
Chair

12/2/21, 12/9/21

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

CITY OF QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS Public Buildings Department

Filed Sub-Bid Trade Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

The Department of Public Buildings for the City of Quincy, Massachusetts is issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to firms interested in providing sub-bid trade contractor services for the following trades on the proposed **Quincy Public Safety Headquarters Project**.

Trade Category/Est. Cost

Acoustical Ceilings: \$629,253

Electrical Work: \$7,388,133

Elevators: \$605,000

Fire Protection

Sprinkler Systems: \$1,327,470

Glass and Glazing: \$1,276,729

HVAC: \$8,502,242

Masonry Work: \$6,593,787

Miscellaneous Metals: \$2,338,102

Painting: \$970,928

Plumbing: \$2,040,632

Resilient Flooring: \$332,985

Roofing & Flashing: \$2,555,674

Tile: \$503,454

Waterproofing, Damp proofing

and Caulking: \$632,512

Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) will be received at the office of the Purchasing Department, City Hall, 1305 Hancock Street, Quincy, Massachusetts 02169 until **January 13, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.** SOQ's received after this time will not be accepted.

Copies of the Request for Qualifications will be available in the offices of the Purchasing Agent, 1305 Hancock St., Quincy, Massachusetts 02169 between the hours of 8:30AM and 4:30 PM or on-line at the City of Quincy's Website, www.quincyma.gov.

The City shall determine the selected Proposer(s) and reserves the right to withdraw the Request for Qualifications; to reject any and all qualifications packages; and to select any qualifications packages deemed to be in the best interest of the City of Quincy.

The selection and award of potential Contracts shall be in full compliance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 7c, as last revised, all Federal, State and City of Quincy regulations in relation to Equal Employment Opportunity. The City reserves the right to waive any informality in or to reject any or all qualification packages when such an action is deemed in the best interests of the City. The City of Quincy reserves the sole right to amend this RFQ by formal Addendum.

All questions regarding this Request for Qualifications should be directed to Kathryn R. Logan, Purchasing Agent through fax: 617-376-1074 and email: purchasing@quincyma.gov. Questions will be accepted until **January 6, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.**

Non-responsive qualification packages may be rejected.

Thomas P. Koch
Mayor

Paul J. Hines
Commissioner, Public Buildings Dept.

Kathryn R. Logan
Chief Procurement Officer

12/9/21

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

In accordance with Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 signed by Governor Charles D. Baker June 16, 2021, extending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 20, the City Council of the City of Quincy will be convening a Public Hearing via remote conferencing services on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 6:30 PM pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40 § 56 as well as guidelines of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue in order to determine the percentages of local tax levy to be borne by each class of real property, as defined in § 2A of Chapter 59, and personal property in Fiscal Year 2022.

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88259400170?pwd=UE02V0dRd3NjL0pDNFVhQWlxZUxGd0Z09>

Meeting ID: 882 5940 0170 Passcode: qPi8FL

Dial by your location - 312-626-6799 US (Chicago) - 929

436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 882 5940 0170 Passcode: 248120

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/k8vtoNM7d>

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST: Nicole L. Crispo
Clerk of Council

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

D
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C

9

2
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2
1

Toys, Community Support Needed For South Shore YMCA Toy Drive

Steps are in motion to collect as many toys as possible for children who would simply go without this holiday season.

As part of the annual South Shore YMCA Holiday Assistance Program, staff and volunteers are working hard to raise support for underprivileged South Shore children and their families.

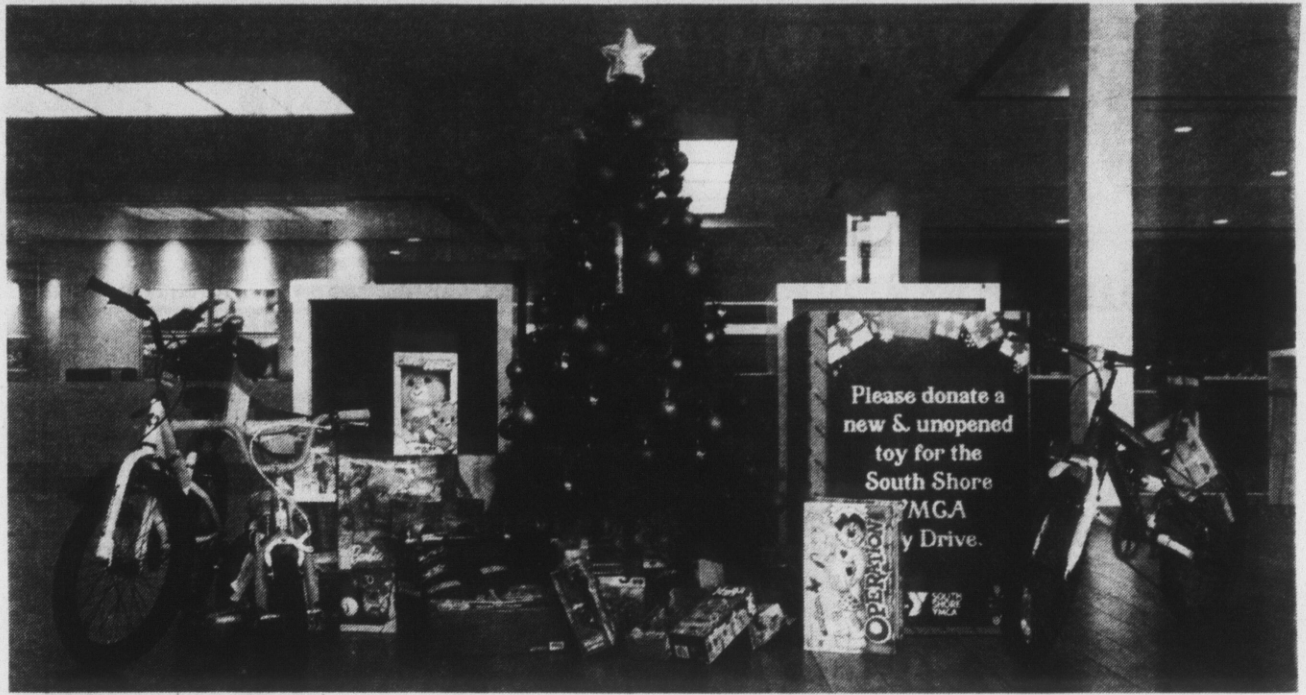
"Each year, we are proud to assemble toys, warm clothing and other gift items to help struggling families across the South Shore. Thanks to our partners, donors, members and volunteers, we are able to make the holidays brighter for thousands of children and families in the area," said South Shore YMCA President and CEO Paul Gorman.

Community partner Quirk Auto Dealers has joined forces by donating 72 bicycles and will be collecting toys for the YMCA toy drive at all their retail locations until December 22.

"If it weren't for the South Shore YMCA, there some nights we wouldn't have food to eat. Being a single mom and not having the ability to provide for my children, makes me feel like a failure. You don't want to see your kid cry especially during the holidays. Many times, the only gifts my children had were from the YMCA holiday program. I really appreciate everything they have done for me", said a tearful Katie, a struggling South Shore single mother of three children.

The YMCA is seeking assistance from the community to collect all kinds of toys plus other holiday gift items, such as clothing and pajamas, that are listed on their website. <https://ssymca.org/give/holiday-assistance/holiday-assistance-wish-list/>.

Donations to the South Shore YMCA Holiday Assistance Program can be made online at, <https://ssymca.org/give/holiday-assistance/>. Toys will be collected at any Quirk Auto Dealer retail location until December 22. For Quirk retail location information, visit: <https://www.quirkcars.com/>.



BBB Study: Online Shopping Scams Flourish On Social Media During Pandemic

Cont'd From Page 26

difficulty getting refunds through PayPal. In addition, scammers employ a variety of tactics to circumvent the dispute process, including exorbitant shipping costs to return items for a refund, supplying bogus shipping tracking numbers, and delaying the process in order to run out the clock for a dispute claim.

Online purchase scams originate from a variety of actors. Counterfeit goods operations, and those who sell goods online that are not delivered or send items

significantly different from what was described, have been tracked to businesses or organized gangs based in China. While China has blocked its people from using Facebook's social media platform in China, some businesses located in the country traffic counterfeit goods and spend billions to advertise on the site. Many pet scams are primarily operated by gangs from Cameroon. Vehicle scams have been traced to gangs from Romania and free trial offer scams have been found to be operated mostly by people

in the U.S. and Canada.

Law enforcement actions mostly have been limited to scammers and their accomplices operating in the U.S. and Canada. In 2020, U.S. customs agencies seized \$1.3 billion in counterfeit goods, arresting 203 individuals and securing 98 convictions.

BBB's study makes the following consumer protection recommendations:

- Facebook should do more to enforce its policies for third party sellers.

- BBB urges credit card payment processors to put

more effort into combating those who provide merchant accounts to sellers who engage in fraud.

- U.S. consumers would benefit from a program to help counterfeit victims with chargebacks like one operated in Canada by the Canadian Anti-fraud Centre (CAFC). Such a program may help identify crooked credit card merchant accounts, bogus websites, and points of origin for counterfeit goods.

- More regulatory oversight is needed regarding companies that use websites

to market products from China but deliver counterfeit goods, items not as advertised, or nothing at all.

Tips for avoiding online purchase scams:

- Check out the website before making a purchase:

- o Check BBB.org to check a business's rating and BBB accreditation status. Some crooks may copy the BBB seal. If it is real, clicking on the seal will lead to the company's BBB profile.

- o Scamadviser.com can often tell you how long a website has been in opera-

tion. Scammers create and close websites regularly, so a site that has only been operating for a short time could raise red flags.

- o Do an internet search with the company name and the word "scam." This may locate other complaints about the site.

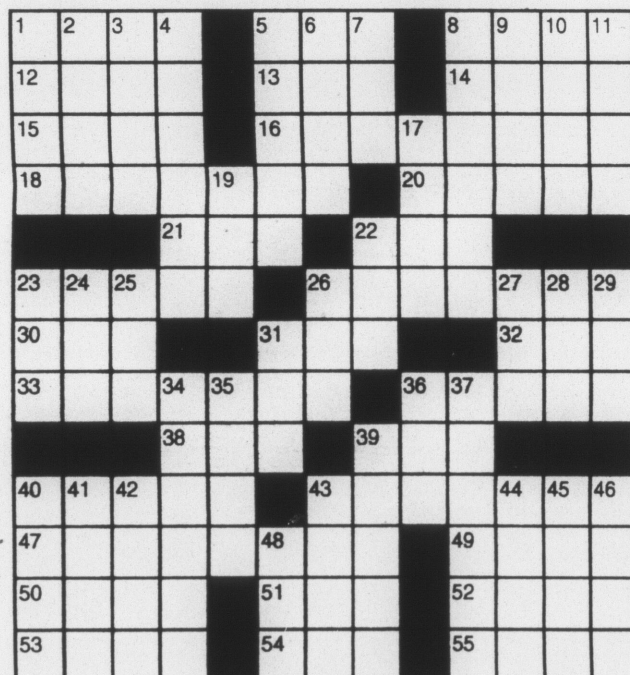
- Scrutinize reviews: Scammers frequently post positive reviews on their websites, either copied from honest sites or created by scammers. One trusted resource to check reviews is at BBB.org. Be aware, some

Cont'd On Page 34

SUN FUN PAGES

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Alum
 - 5 Spell-off
 - 8 Pit
 - 12 Taylor of "Mystic Pizza"
 - 13 Approves
 - 14 Satan's forte
 - 15 Leading man?
 - 16 Landlocked Mideast territory
 - 18 Disney's Ariel, for one
 - 20 Van Gogh venue
 - 21 CBS logo
 - 22 Mimic
 - 23 Wedding VIP
 - 26 "I'm No Angel" actress
 - 30 '60s chic
 - 31 Green shade
 - 32 Cattle call
 - 33 "The Great Gatsby" setting
 - 36 Self-reproach
 - 38 Stop — dime
- DOWN**
- 1 Glitz partner
 - 2 Carousel, for one
 - 3 Winged
 - 4 Darkened
 - 5 "Let's Dance" singer
 - 6 Scratched (out)
 - 7 Curved letter
 - 8 Semitic language
 - 9 Cameo shape
 - 10 Queue
 - 11 BPOE members
 - 17 Carton sealer
 - 19 Nay undoer
 - 22 Motorist's org.
 - 23 Upscale auto
 - 24 Shad product
 - 25 Egos' counter-parts
 - 26 Jo's sister
 - 27 Brit. record label
 - 28 Fa follower
 - 29 Youngster
 - 31 Links org.
 - 34 Rattled out
 - 35 Sufficient, old-style
 - 36 Deity
 - 37 Gender-neutral
 - 39 Montana city
 - 40 Dazzles
 - 41 Freshener
 - 42 Shoppe
 - 43 Unrepaired
 - 44 Lip soother
 - 45 Garage job
 - 46 Panache
 - 48 Conceit



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MAGIC MAZE • HORNNED WORDS

U E B Y V S Q N K H E B Y W T
R O L J T G E B Y W U R P N K
N B I F A E A G D B Z X V S E
Q R I O O L N R O H E D N P M
K I O G T G P R E C A R I Y W
U S Q H H P N H O S O P L J H
F E O O T O N R O H N I T C A
Y R X R V W R U G R E R S Q P
N N M N K J A N O H N O O F E
E K I L N R O H L L U B H H C
B Z Y X V L L I B N R O H S T

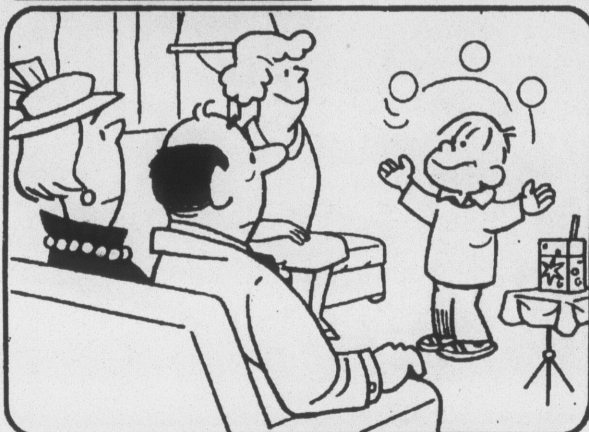
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: A LARGE WASP

Alphorn	Dehorn	Hornlike	Shorn
Althorn	Foghorn	Hornpipe	Thorns
Bighorn	Hawthorn	Longhorn	Tinhorn
Bullhorn	Hornbill	Shoehorn	

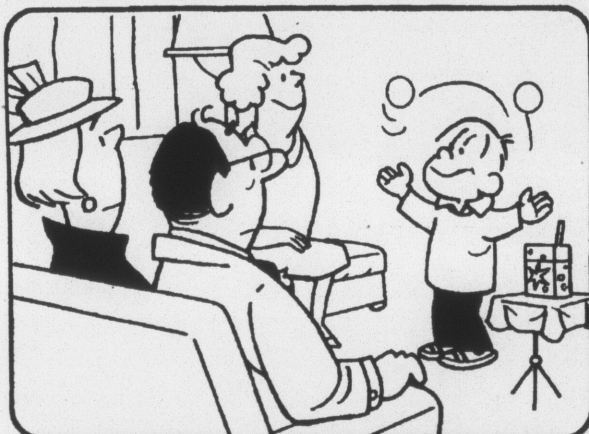
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Table is moved. 2. Ball is missing. 3. Glasses are added. 4. Pants are different. 5. Hair is added. 6. Necktie is removed.



- Trivia test** by Fifi Rodriguez
1. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president signed legislation that made Christmas a national holiday?
 2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of dragonflies called?
 3. MOVIES: Who played the role of Father Chuck O'Malley in "Going My Way"?
 4. FOOD & DRINK: In what year was the famous Toll House chocolate chip cookie first made?
 5. LANGUAGE: What is the international radio code word for the letter M?
 6. TELEVISION: What's the name of the mom on "Family Guy"?
 7. PERSONALITIES:

- Which famous boxer's nickname is "The Manassa Mauler"?
8. HISTORY: Over which empire did Genghis Khan rule?
 9. GEOGRAPHY: The Appian Way is an ancient road in what country?
 10. MEASUREMENTS: How many milliliters are in 1 cup?

Answers: 1. Ulysses Grant

2. A swarm

3. Bing Crosby

4. 1938

5. Mike

6. Lois Griffin

7. Jack Dempsey

8. The Mongol Empire

9. Italy. The road connected Rome and Brindisi.

10. 250

Wishing Well®

4	8	7	2	3	4	6	7	2	7	5	3	7
A	F	E	S	L	C	S	A	U	G	C	O	E
4	6	4	3	6	8	2	8	7	8	4	2	5
T	T	U	V	E	R	C	E	R	S	P	C	H
7	2	7	3	8	6	8	6	3	5	4	8	7
T	E	O	E	H	A	C	D	O	E	O	H	L
4	2	7	8	3	5	6	4	6	2	7	2	4
N	S	E	O	F	E	Y	I	P	S	A	U	L
5	4	2	5	8	7	5	7	6	8	2	6	5
R	L	P	A	I	R	B	N	R	C	H	O	O
8	4	2	5	2	3	6	3	6	2	8	4	3
E	U	E	U	L	J	G	U	R	D	S	S	S
4	3	5	3	5	4	3	6	3	5	4	6	6
I	T	N	I	D	O	C	E	E	S	N	S	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Make your holiday preparations one step at a time in order to avoid being overwhelmed and leaving things undone. That confusing family situation continues to work itself out.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Ease this year's holiday money pressures by letting your thrifty side guide you as you look for those perfect gifts that typically reflect your good taste and love of beauty.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You'll have a good handle on potential holiday problems if you delegate tasks to family members, friends or co-workers -- most of whom will be more than happy to help out.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Right now you are especially vulnerable to holiday scams that seek to take advantage of your generosity. Best advice: Check them out before you send out your checks.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The upcoming holiday season gives the Big Cat much to purr about. Relationships grow stronger, and new opportunities loom on the horizon, just waiting to be pounced on.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A changing situation brings conflicting advice about how to go forward with your holiday plans. Your best bet: Make the decision you feel most comfortable with.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Holiday plans get back on track after some confusion about the direction you expected to take. A po-

tentially troublesome money matter needs your immediate attention.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your holiday preparations are on track. But you need to confront a personal situation while you can still keep it from overwhelming everything else.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Tight financial matters ease a bit during this holiday season. But the sagacious Sagittarian is well-advised to keep a tight hold on the reins while shopping for gifts.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Don't put off making decisions about this year's holiday celebrations, despite the negative comments you've been getting from several quarters. Do it NOW!

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The holidays will bring new friends and new opportunities. Meanwhile, be careful to use your energy wisely as you go about making holiday preparations.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) There's good news coming from a most unlikely source. And it could turn out to be one of the best holiday gifts you have had in years. Remember to stay positive.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are respected for your honesty and loyalty. You make friends slowly -- but with rare exceptions, they're in your life forever.

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: M equals P

SJLOANTX ITPIEHJIP PL XLLUV-
JLLZNTX OACO OAIV ECZI
MCPPIWPHV SWCSZ .DM:
CMMCWIJ LU JCDXAP.

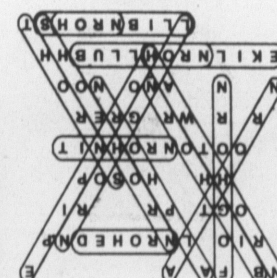
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King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.



Magic Maze ANSWERS:



CryptoQuip answer

Looking for the answer? Try to decipher the message by cracking the code. The answer is hidden in the code.

D
E
C

9

2
0
2
1

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD – If you're Leonardo DiCaprio, how do you top starring with Jennifer Lawrence in Netflix sci-fi drama "Don't Look Up" (due Dec. 24) and with Robert DeNiro in Martin Scorsese's \$200 million "Killer of the Flower Moon" (for Paramount+ and Apple TV)? Star, produce and play cult leader Jim Jones, who, in Jonestown, Guyana, on Nov. 18, 1978, fatally poisoned 900 followers and himself with cyanide-laced Flavor Aid. DiCaprio turned 47 on Nov. 11, the same age as Jim Jones when he died.

Aaron Sorkin's film about Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, "Being the Ricardos," for Amazon will have the emphasis on drama, not comedy. Oscar-winners Nicole Kidman and Javier Bardem are Lucy and Desi, and it covers Lucy's investigation by the FBI for registering to vote as a Communist in 1936 (to please her ailing grandfather) and her struggles in convincing CBS to hire Desi as Ricky so she could keep him from galivanting all over the globe with his band...and female fans. Oscar-winner J.K. Simmons and Nina Arianda play Fred and Ethel Mertz. The film opens in theaters Dec. 10 and starts streaming Dec. 21 via Prime Video. Next, Kidman reunites with her "Big Little Lies" husband, Alexander Skarsgard, in the historical thriller "The North Man," starring Bjork and Ethan Hawke, out April 8.

Gal Gadot was thrilled when original 1970s TV "Wonder Woman" Lynda Carter, now 70, played Asteria, the greatest Amazon Warrior in Greek mythology. She confessed, "Lynda has mentored me from the first moment I was cast as Wonder Woman. She's a true champion of what I've been doing." Carter will be back for the third edition of "Wonder Woman." Gadot hit screens Nov. 5 in "Red Notice," with Ryan Reynolds and Dwayne Johnson, and is upcoming in "Death on the Nile," out Feb. 11.

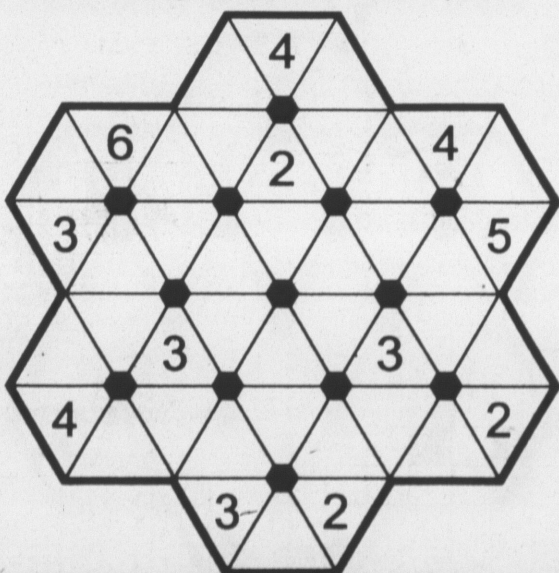
Here's a new one for you. More than 21,000 fans of the Broadway musical "Wicked" have signed a petition pleading with Universal Studios, which is making the film version, that "James Cordon in no way, shape or form be in or near the production of the movie." Cordon has a way of insinuating himself into movie musicals such as "Into the Woods," "Cats," "Cinderella" (which he also produced) playing a mouse, and Ryan Murphy's film of Broadway's "The Prom," with Meryl Streep. Cordon was singled out in Vanity Fair's review, which said, "Cordon, flitting and lipping around in the most uninspired of caricatures, misses all potential for nuance and thus never finds even a hint of truth in the role." Maybe he should stick to his late-night talk show instead of playing "Cats" and mouse with film audiences!

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★ ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		11
-		×		÷	
	+		×		20
×		+		+	
	×		+		17
16		17		9	

1 2 3 4 4 5 7 8 9

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KOVELS' Antiques & Collecting

By Terry and Kim Kovel

Bonzo Bank — This vintage bank is easy to date. It is a type of tin bank that is no longer popular, and the dog decorating the front was a comic cartoon star from the 1920s to the 1940s. This is the first famous Bonzo.

A live dog by that name became famous in the movies years later. Bonzo was first pictured in a British comic strip in 1922, but the bank was made in Germany by Saalheimer & Strauss. The company made toys, especially cars and motorcycles, until it was bought in 1936. The toys had an oval mark with two overlapping S letters on top of the word Success. There are two similar versions of the bank; a poem explaining how to deposit money is on the front of one type but not on the other. Bertoia Auctions sold this mechanical bank for \$1,800.

Q: Is an embossed metal Cracker Jack button stud worth anything? It has Sailor Jack, little dog Bingo and "Me for Crackerjack" on the front. It's about 1-inch high and 3/4-inch wide.

A: Frederick Rueckheim began selling popcorn in 1871. He and his brother, Louis, sold a mixture of popcorn, peanuts and molasses at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. Louis copyrighted the recipe and the slogan, "The more you eat, the more you want," in 1896. Coupons for prizes were added to the boxes in 1910. Sales increased dramatically after small prizes for children were included in the boxes beginning in 1912. Frederick's grandson was the model for Sailor Jack, which was first used in advertisements in 1916. The first boxes with Sailor Jack

were produced in 1918.

Cracker Jack prizes are collectible, especially the old metal ones. Prizes were eliminated in 2016 and replaced by a game that can be played by scanning a URL code. A button stud like yours sold recently for \$56. Cracker Jack is now part of Frito Lay.

CURRENT PRICES

Pewter candlesticks, fluted stem with swags, square base with cut corners, touch mark on base, Continental, c. 1800, 89 inches, pair \$30. Quilt, piecwork, Steeple Chase pattern, blue cotton, white patterned fabrics, hand stitched with white backing, c. 1900, 56 1/2 x 82 1/2 inches, \$110.

Jewelry, cuff links, round plaque, two raised lions' heads roaring at each other, 14K yellow gold, oval bean-shaped back, art nouveau, plaque 5/8 inches, \$365. Folk art, mirror, hand, make-do, wood, chip carved frame and handle, teardrop shape, Pennsylvania, 19th century, 11 1/4 x 6 1/4 inches, \$440.

TIP: Don't store fabrics in plastic bags. Use a well-washed white pillowcase. Plastic holds moisture and the fabrics should breathe.

Learn about the record-setting prices scores of items have brought in recent years in the new Kovels' Antiques & Collectibles Price Guide 2022. It's the ONLY antiques price guide that empowers collectors with the most up-to-date price information based on actual sales and market data. Available in stores and online, it makes a great gift.

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STICKELERS

by Terry Stickels

Can you match these authors with their well-known books?

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. "The Scarlet Letter" | a. Jack London |
| 2. "The Call of the Wild" | b. Jonathan Swift |
| 3. "Heart of Darkness" | c. Nathaniel Hawthorne |
| 4. "Gulliver's Travels" | d. Jane Austen |
| 5. "Pride and Prejudice" | e. Joseph Conrad |

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Strange BUT TRUE

• In 2008, PETA requested Ben & Jerry's use breast-milk instead of cow's milk to make ice cream. This was unanimously rejected by Ben & Jerry's and La Leche League International.

• Sixty-five percent of test subjects had the urge to yawn after reading about yawning.

• From 1746 until 1996, English law considered bagpipes not as a musical instrument, but a weapon of war, used to "instill courage in soldiers and put the fear of God into the enemy."

• The kitchen dishwasher was invented by a politician's socialite wife who was fed up with servants breaking her expensive dishes.

• Author Roger Highfield's 1999 book "The Physics of Christmas: From the Aerodynamics of Reindeer to the Thermodynamics of Turkey" detailed a darker side to Rudolph's famously red nose — not alcoholism.

but some kind of parasitic infection.

• A tornado in Oklahoma once ripped a full motel off the ground. Its sign was later found in Arkansas.

• Born in 1924, a horse called Lady Wonder was considered by many to be psychic. Not only did she make predictions and answer questions for over 30 years and more than 150,000 people, she was credited with helping to solve several crimes.

• Chilean poet Pablo Neruda always wrote in green ink, which for him was a color of hope and abundance.

• LeBron James's decision to leave Cleveland to join the Miami Heat was such a shocker that even Osama Bin Laden's translator, who was being held at Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba, wrote about it to his lawyers, declaring that "LeBron James is a very bad man. He should apologize to the city of Cleveland."

Thought for the Day: "Beauty is the moment when time vanishes and eternity arises." — Amit Ray

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Now here's a tip!

by Jo Ann Derson

• Candles will burn more evenly if you refrigerate them for a few hours before lighting.

• "My great-nephew and his family came to visit, and his toddler son is quite into opening doors. I had baby-proofed my home, but I did not think about his being able to turn a doorknob. His very smart mother pulled out a sock and slipped it over the doorknob, then secured it with a wide rubber band. Even I was unable to get a good grip on the doorknob after that!" — V.R. in North Carolina

• Surprise guests? Here's how to quickly clean your living areas: First, clean the toilet, mirror and vanity in the guest bathroom and leave a fresh towel; grab a laundry basket and remove any clutter from the living room and kitchen; put away or clean dirty dishes and wipe down counters in the kitchen; finally, give carpets a quick vacuum. Then maybe light a great-smelling candle and

greet your guests!

• "Fireplaces are wonderful for heat and ambience, but the ashes! When cleaning up, I spritz the ashes with a rosemary water solution. This keeps them from dusting up and flying all over, and it smells great. My neighbor puts her damp loose-leaf tea in the fireplace for scent." — C.W. in Iowa

• "In cold winter months, keep your robe (and slippers or whatever else) under the covers with you when you sleep. Pull it next to or over you a few minutes before you get up. It'll be toasty and will help make the transition into the cold a little less harsh." — Giselle in New York

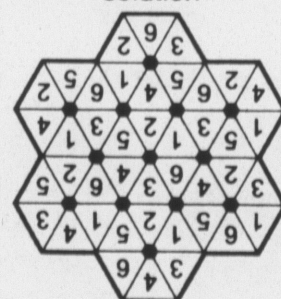
• Empty spice containers can be used to hold different hardware in the shop or in your toolbox.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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SNOWFLAKES

solution



Go Figure!

answers

6	17	16
17	7	5
+	+	×
20	4	4
+	×	-
11	8	6

Stickelers Answer

1-c, 2-a, 3-e, 4-b, 5-d

Super Crossword

ANIMATED
WOOFERS

ACROSS

- 1 Agree (with)
- 5 Ability to cope well with difficulty
- 11 Mini-devils
- 15 Girl
- 19 Forget to say
- 20 Vocation
- 21 Heist booty
- 22 — Stanley Gardner
- 23 She played Kira Nerys on "Deep Space Nine"
- 25 Sicilian resort city
- 26 Rain-starved
- 27 Get ripper
- 28 Taken with
- 29 Legendary nude horse rider
- 31 Small bird
- 32 Enhaloed Fr. woman
- 33 Lightning source, as shortened in weather reports
- 36 Like wicker baskets
- 37 Rotating rocket ride at Disney theme parks
- 40 Alternatives to dice
- 43 Has the helm

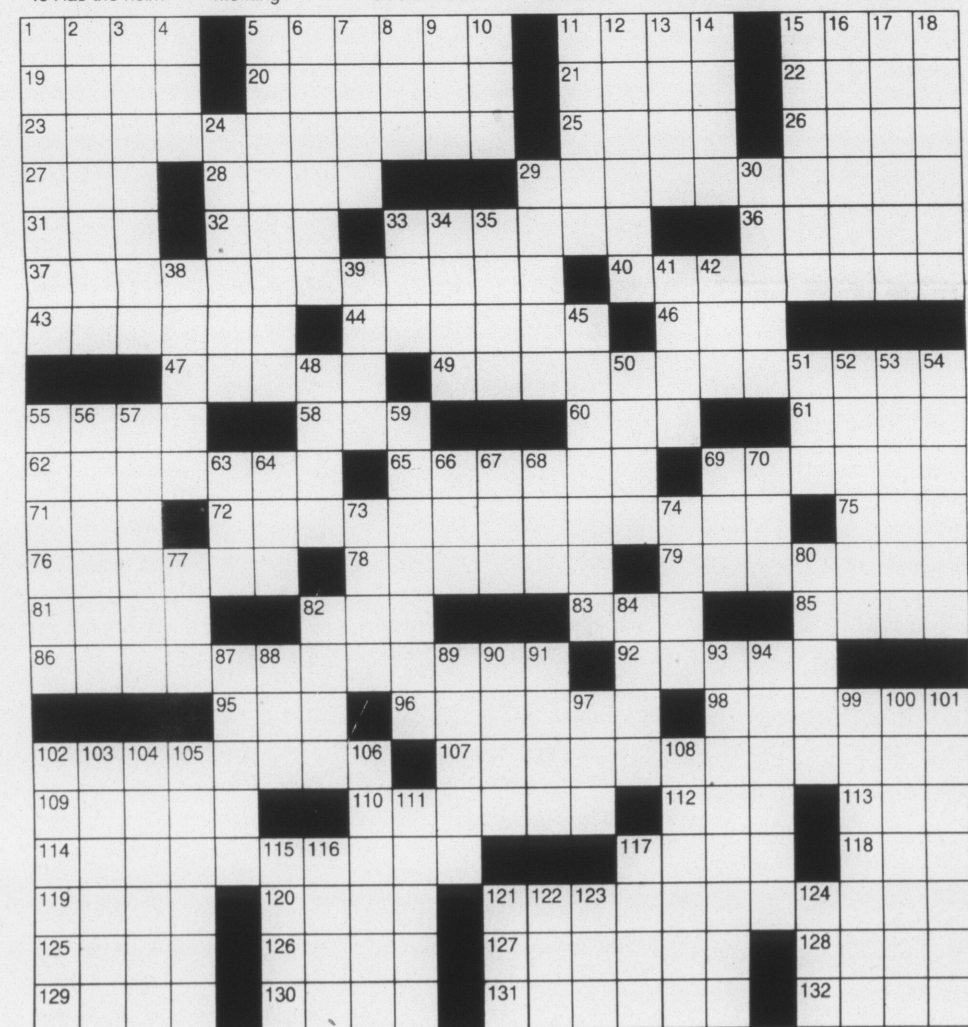
- 44 Exactly
- 46 Lime drink
- 47 "Oh, go on!"
- 49 Kevin Bacon's "Footloose" role
- 55 Spring-loaded stick
- 58 R&B's Rawls
- 60 Suffix with script
- 61 Elvis — Presley
- 62 Twitched, as a muscle
- 65 Pasta strip
- 69 Raiment
- 71 — and yang
- 72 Depressing or untidy sort
- 75 Santa —, California
- 76 Overprotect
- 78 Most ashen
- 79 Discovered
- 81 Old cracker brand
- 82 Short time, for short
- 83 Sheeran and O'Neill
- 85 Regatta tools
- 86 Grammy

- 92 Retort to "No you're not!"
- 95 Moray, say
- 96 Gin mill
- 98 Be emphatic
- 102 Moniker for Boston's locale
- 107 Flying disc renamed "Frisbee" in 1957
- 109 Zones
- 110 FDR part
- 112 "Indeedy"
- 113 "Law & Order: —" (NBC series since '99)
- 114 Silly grin
- 117 Gravy Train competitor
- 118 Insult, in rap
- 119 Be very mad
- 120 Baseball's Ty
- 121 Their names begin eight answers in this puzzle
- 125 Wields
- 126 Major city in Norway
- 127 Squirrel food
- 128 Actress
- 129 Period before 6-Down
- 130 Close-call cry
- 131 Present in a different form

- ## DOWN
- 1 Piano recital pieces
 - 2 Free-verse poet
 - 3 Kitchen nook
 - 4 Hellenic H
 - 5 Red apple
 - 6 It follows Holy Week
 - 7 Stooges, e.g.
 - 8 New Year in Vietnam
 - 9 Zodiac sign
 - 10 Mess up
 - 11 "Word has it ..."
 - 12 Munchies from Mars
 - 13 Pint-size
 - 14 Smelter
 - 15 Entice
 - 16 Get there
 - 17 Split-off bit
 - 18 Alternatives to coupes
 - 24 Sun blockers
 - 29 Oscar winner
 - 30 Proprietor
 - 33 Uncle, in Spanish
 - 34 Sky shiner
 - 35 Head, in French
 - 38 Creditors' takebacks

- 39 Square in the first column of a bingo card
- 41 Speed
- 42 Nuptial vow
- 45 Try to equal
- 48 "We're No Angels" actor — Ray
- 50 Regatta group
- 51 Gym pad
- 52 Pop singer
- 53 Intersection
- 54 Presses and stretches
- 55 Hitchcock film of 1960
- 56 Downer drug
- 57 India's Indira
- 59 Takes stuff out of a suitcase
- 63 Nero's 1,550
- 64 Up 'til
- 66 Popeye's Olive
- 67 Lofly poem
- 68 "ER" roles
- 69 Exist
- 70 Luggage-screening org.
- 73 Oil gp.
- 74 "Frozen" heroine
- 77 Fawn nurse
- 80 Hen's perch
- 82 Road deicer

- 84 T. rex, e.g.
- 87 U.S. flag sewer Ross
- 88 Meadowland
- 89 Sappy tree
- 90 Earthen cooking pot
- 91 Person, place or thing
- 93 Motorist's distance marker
- 94 Attach with a click
- 97 Siouan tribe
- 99 "All finished!"
- 100 "Kids" actress
- 101 Bridge supports
- 102 Amount a sack will hold
- 103 Stimulate
- 104 Naval petty officers
- 105 Most secure
- 106 OK for eating
- 108 Traffic cones
- 111 Funny bone
- 115 Garbage barge
- 116 Dance violently
- 117 Razor choice
- 121 Uber order
- 122 Fabulous flier
- 123 Fabled flier
- 124 "Zip-a-Dee-Doo- —"



celebrity extra

by Dana Jackson

Q: Where has Susan Sarandon been lately? She's my all-time favorite movie actress. How many Oscars has she won? — S.F.

A: Despite just turning 75 years old, Susan Sarandon has not slowed down. She first shot to fame at age 29 in the cult-movie comedy "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." She's no stranger to the Oscars, having been nominated five times before winning in 1996 for her performance as a nun opposite Sean Penn's death row inmate in "Dead Man Walking."

In recent years she's played movie star Bette Davis in the Ryan Murphy series "Feud: Bette and Joan," a movie mogul in Showtime's "Ray Donovan" and returned to comedy in the film "A Bad Moms Christmas." Next, she stars in the country-music drama series "Monarch," which premieres Jan. 30 at 10 p.m. ET on Fox.

Q: I make a point to watch "It's a Wonderful Life" every December. Did Jimmy Stewart win an Oscar for the role or any other roles? He certainly deserved a whole mantle full. — D.J.

A: With his distinctive voice, Jimmy Stewart was absolutely one of the all-time greats. Born in 1908, he went on to act in 80 films up until 1991. He was nominated five times for Best Actor in a Leading Role, including for "It's a Wonderful Life," but his only win was for "The Philadelphia Story."

"It's a Wonderful Life" was the first film Stewart made after serving as an Air Force pilot during World War II. He was reported to have suffered PTSD, and this certainly made an impact on his emotional performance as George Bailey in the film.

When he returned to acting, Stewart found that Hollywood had moved on without him. He wanted to do a comedy after having endured the trauma of war, but the only role offered was the despondent Bailey in the future Frank Capra classic. Stewart reluctantly agreed, and the rest is history.

Q: I saw a commercial where Will Smith goes on an outdoor adventure around the world. I didn't catch whether he's a character in a movie or what, but it looked so interesting. When does it come out? — K.E.

A: Will Smith does have a new movie out, "King Richard," where he plays the father of tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams in a story about their lives, but the commercial you saw is for a limited reality series with Smith as himself. In "Welcome to Earth," he goes on adventures around the world with Oscar-winning filmmaker Darren Aronofsky. Guided by experienced explorers, Smith climbs volcanoes and glaciers, journeys 3,000 feet below the sea, and gets up close and personal with wild creatures. It will be available for streaming beginning Dec. 8 on Disney+.



Susan Sarandon in "A Bad Moms Christmas"

Photo Credit: STX Entertainment

This year also has been one of reflection for the 53-year-old actor, as he recently published his memoir, "Will," which you can learn more about at WilltheBook.com.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWs, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Wave's high point — S — Sneaked around — P —
2. Bower of trees — B — Enthusiasm — D —
3. Highly intelligent — I — Muscular — W —
4. Screech loudly — C — Small river — T —
5. School level — D — Shred, like cheese — T —
6. Defeated one — S — Recluse — N —
7. General layout — T — Prom dress — L —
8. Traveler's inn — O — Mantel piece — E —
9. Gold medalist, e.g. — N — Frosty's season — T —
10. Be the first to create — N — Buy stocks and bonds — S —

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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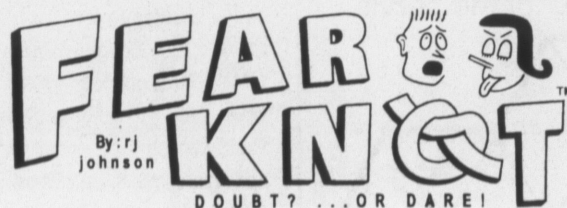
Super Crossword

Answers



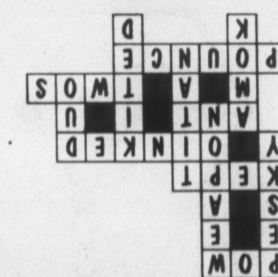
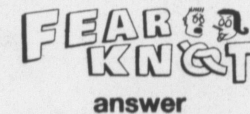
Even Exchange answers

1. Crest, Crept
2. Arbor, Arid
3. Brainy, Brawny
4. Stream, Stream
5. Grade, Grate
6. Loser, Loner
7. Format, Formal
8. Lodge, Ledge
9. Winner, Winter
10. Invent, Invest



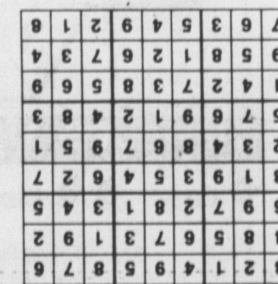
- ODU
- OWNPEA
- TEKDI
- KAMO
- ONECUP
- OWP
- WOST
- SPYEK
- NTA
- DOKEIN
- ATTIN
- PKTE

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer



D
E
C

9

2
0
2
1

Amber Waves



Out on a Limb



R.F.D.



SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Heed
GRADER

Blend
LEMING

Pad
BATTLE

Corrected
TREES

TODAY'S WORD

"First, could you lend me a dime for the _____?"

Conceptis Hitori

Each puzzle consists of a square grid with numbers appearing in all squares. The object is to shade squares so:

1	5	3	1	2
5	4	1	3	4
3	4	3	1	5
4	4	2	3	3
2	1	5	4	4

- No number appears in a row or column more than once.
- Shaded (black) squares do not touch each other vertically or horizontally.
- When completed, all un-shaded (white) squares create a single continuous area.

3	2	1	6	5	4
4	4	2	1	3	3
6	4	5	2	3	6
5	4	3	6	6	6
1	3	6	5	1	2
2	5	6	6	2	1



Beware Holiday Foods, Ornaments, Plants

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Please remind your readers of how important it is to keep their pets away from holiday foods. Some foods, like chocolate, can be deadly poisonous to dogs, while rich foods and ingredients like onions or raisins can be dangerous for cats and dogs. — Jessica in New Jersey

DEAR JESSICA: You told them, and thank you! The holiday season, with plenty of parties, family and food, can be hectic for everyone, but it's important to monitor pets and make sure they're kept away from potentially harmful items.

Many foods, not just chocolate but onions, grapes and raisins, nuts, avocados and other holiday foods can cause house pets great harm. Store them well out of reach, and keep pets out

of the kitchen when cooking and away from serving tables. A more extensive list of common foods that can be poisonous to pets is available from the Humane Society of the United States (www.humanesociety.org). Christmas tree ornaments also can potentially be harmful. Cats love knocking down glass ornaments and may accidentally ingest tinsel or other shiny strands. Dogs may gnaw on interesting packages or break into gift boxes of candy or fruit. Even plants need to be kept out of reach: poinsettias, for example, are toxic to cats. To minimize risk, place breakable ornaments higher on the tree and put plants well out of reach. During parties or dinners, place your pets in a separate area of the house with bedding, food and water, and check on them occasionally. (This also is helpful in keeping pets' stress levels down.)

Send your tips, comments and questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

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TOP VIDEO RENTALS AND SALES

TOP TEN VIDEO, DVD
for release week of
December 6, 2021

Video On Demand

1. No Time to Die (PG-13) Daniel Craig
2. Jungle Cruise (PG-13) Dwayne Johnson
3. Free Guy (PG-13) Ryan Reynolds
4. Candyman (R) Yahya Abdul-Mateen II
5. Stillwater (R) Matt Damon
6. Dangerous (R) Scott Eastwood
7. Respect (PG-13) Jennifer Hudson
8. The Eyes of Tammy Faye (PG-13) Jessica Chastain
9. Old (PG-13) Gael Garcia Bernal

10. PAW Patrol: The Movie (G) animated

DVD, Blu-ray Sales

1. Jungle Cruise (PG-13) Disney
2. F9: The Fast Saga (PG-13) Universal
3. The Grinch* (PG) Universal
4. Godzilla vs. Kong (PG-13) Warner
5. Zach Snyder's Justice League (R) Warner
6. Snake Eyes: G.I. Joe Origins (PG-13) Paramount
7. Free Guy (PG-13) Disney/20th Century
8. How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (PG) Universal
9. A Quiet Place (PG-13) Paramount
10. Elf* (PG) Warner

*Re-release
Source: Comscore/
Media Play News

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Hitori

answer

1	2	9	6	5	2
2	2	1	5	9	8
9	9	9	6	4	5
6	6	6	3	4	9
9	3	2	5	4	9
3	3	2	1	4	4
4	4	1	6	5	4

SCRAMBLERS

solution

METER

Today's Word

1. Regard 2. Mingle 3. Tablet 4. Reset

MORE FUN



How to With John Wilson (TV-MA) — Director and producer John Wilson spends a lot of time walking around New York trying to find the answers to some of life's biggest questions. This observational docuseries returns for its second season and continues to enthrall with Wilson's deadpan sarcasm. His uncanny ability to start out with a ridiculously boring premise and somehow have it snowball into an utterly bizarre and totally different topic than anyone ever saw coming is fascinating. His lack of polished commentary is hilariously genuine. It's like watching a 40-year-old man present an eighth-grade school project he created on his dad's video camera. (HBOMax)

Passing (PG-13) — Imagine running into a childhood friend after many years, realizing they are now living their life as a member of another race, and at that moment you are the only person who knows the truth. Based on a 1929 novel of the same name, "Passing" is the story of two black women in 1920s New York City, one of whom is living as a wealthy white woman married to a racist white man who is blissfully ignorant of his wife's true self. When Clare realizes how much she misses her former black life in Harlem, she insinuates herself into Irene's family, friends, and home there. It's an emotionally charged film that relies on silence as much as dialogue, and very effectively so. Starring Tessa Thompson, Ruth Negga and Andre Holland. (Netflix)

The Fight Before Christmas (R) — Nothing quite quashes the good cheer of merry gentlemen like a disagreement between neighbors over what constitutes "too many" Christ-

mas lights in one's yard. OK, so it's not just lights, but also a 35-person choir, and a live camel or two. Jeremy Morris is an Idaho attorney who ticked off most of his town when he attempted to produce a giant Christmas show on his own property. When his homeowners' association said "no way" and neighbors threatened legal action, it became Morris's life's mission to deck the halls and trees and shrubs grandly enough to be seen from space. What followed was an explosion of ego instead of peace on earth, goodwill toward men. (AppleTV+)



Ruth Negga and Tessa Thompson in "Passing"

The Housewife & the Shah Shocker (NR) — Bravo's "Housewives" franchise is always good for some drama; lucky for us, producers are quick to capitalize on the salacious legal entanglements in which some of the women find themselves. From the Salt Lake City team, Jen Shah was arrested by federal agents earlier this year — on camera — after being investigated in a money-laundering scheme. The castmates were just embarking on a group trip together when Jen received a phone call and quickly exited without explanation. The tip wasn't enough to escape agents, though. Jen was arrested along with her assistant, charged, pled not guilty, and awaits trial. This ABC News originals special will delve further into her alleged wrongdoings, the coordinated arrest and what her co-stars might have known about her "business." (Hulu)

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Contract Bridge

IVY RIVALRY

East dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♦ J 9 7		♠ 6 3 2	
♥ A J 5 3		♥ K	
♦ J 7 4 3		♠ K 9 6 5	
♣ Q 7		♠ A K 8 6 5	
WEST		SOUTH	
♦ —		♦ A K Q 10 8 5 4	
♥ 9 7 6		♥ Q 10 8 4 2	
♦ A Q 10 8 2		♣ —	
♠ J 10 9 3 2		♣ 4	

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
1 ♠	1 ♠	3 ♠	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	6 ♠		

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

Today's deal, from a Harvard-Yale bridge match some years ago, provides ample proof of the high caliber of play to be found at the university level.

South, Bill Cole of Harvard, wound up in six spades after the auction shown. His initial one-spade overcall admittedly "kept a little in reserve." After West made a limit raise in clubs and North raised spades, Cole cue-bid to show first-round control of diamonds. When North responded in kind in hearts, South bid the slam.

East won the opening club lead with

by Steve Becker

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Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

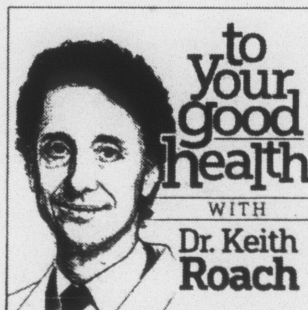
WORD FUN

Study the two words on each line to find the ONE letter in the left column that is NOT in the word in the right column. Write the extra letter on the blank space. Then read DOWN to answer this riddle:

WHAT DO YOU CALL CARPENTERS WHO CANNOT FIND THEIR TOOLS?

ASSERT	STARE	LABELS	SABLE
PETALS	PELTS	NOSIER	SIREN
GLOWED	LODGE	PALEST	PLATE
		EIGHTS	SIGHT
		ADMIRE	MEDIA
		LASHES	LEASH

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Twisted Colon Is a Surgical Emergency

DEAR DR. ROACH: This past weekend, during my son's wedding festivities, I experienced a sigmoid volvulus. Doctors recommended surgery, but I opted for a colonoscopy, which was performed successfully. Thank goodness. I was immediately a new woman, and no one would have dreamed I went through this emergency. The surgeons recommended I have my sigmoid colon removed in order to decrease the risk of recurrence. Ideally, this would happen as soon as possible.

What could have prompted the sigmoid volvulus? Is it an absolute that I must have my sigmoid colon removed? What are the odds of it recurring? If I do need the surgery, how can I best prepare for it, and what are the side effects? -- M.B.

ANSWER: A volvulus is the twisting of a hollow structure in the body around its long axis (imagine holding one end of a sock in each hand and flipping the middle so it twists on itself). The sigmoid colon is the most common location. It is a surgical emergency, as tissue death and gangrene may follow.

The biggest risk factor for volvulus is chronic constipation, but some people just have anatomy that predisposes them to get a volvulus.

Surgery is the definitive treatment, but colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy may be used to untwist the colon; medical professionals use the term "reduce." However, your surgeon was right that you are at risk for this happening again. In those people with a history of volvulus, 50% to 60% will get another, and if you have two, the recurrence rate is even higher.

For a person in generally good health, I would recommend definitive surgery to pre-

vent recurrence of volvulus. There are no specific instructions to prepare for surgery, beyond taking good care of yourself and following your surgeon's instructions about your medications (if any).

Any abdominal surgery has the risk of bleeding, infection and adhesions (connections between loops of bowel that can lead to painful obstruction later); however, these risks are quite small.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 71-year-old male who just underwent surgery for tongue cancer. It was diagnosed as an invasive squamous cell carcinoma with strong P16 staining consistent with human HPV. We've never been vaccinated for HPV. Is it advisable for my wife (66 years old) and me to be vaccinated with Gardasil 9? She was tested by her gynecologist and does not have HPV at this time. -- R.L.

ANSWER: Human papillomavirus is an increasing cause of cancer in the head and neck, and it is believed that vaccination is likely to prevent most cases of this type of cancer, which mostly occur in men. Although there are clinical trials ongoing now to see whether vaccination may help treat existing HPV-related cancers, it is not routinely recommended for people with HPV-related cancers.

Your wife was wise to get tested for HPV. Given her age, she would not normally be considered a candidate for the vaccine. Odds are she has already been exposed to the virus during your marriage and has successfully resisted the infection. Some people in her situation might consider the vaccine, given its low risk of side effects, despite lack of proven effectiveness in this situation. However, it would be three doses of the vaccine, which would not normally be covered by insurance in the U.S.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

Pea and Pasta Salad

During the hectic days leading up to the holidays, it's nice to have side salads waiting in the refrigerator for last-minute meals. This great pasta salad is perfect alongside grilled burgers or baked chicken breasts.

- 1/2 cup fat-free mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup sweet pickle relish
- 1 (2-ounce) jar chopped pimiento, drained
- 1 1/2 cups cold cooked rotini pasta, rinsed and drained
- 1 1/2 cups frozen peas, thawed
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese

1. In a large bowl, combine mayonnaise, pickle relish and pimiento. Add rotini pasta and peas. Mix well to combine. Fold in Cheddar cheese.

2. Cover and refrigerate for at least 15 minutes. Gently stir again just before serving. Makes 6 (2/3 cup) servings.

• Each serving equals: 164 calories, 4g fat, 9g protein, 23g carb., 153mg sodium, 3g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch, 1 Meat.

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- Who wrote and released "Love Will Tear Us Apart"?
- Which artist had the first hit with "Everlasting Love"?
- Name the three truckers in C.W. McCall's "Convoy."
- What was the title of John Travolta's debut single, his only Top 10 hit?
- Name the song that contains this lyric: "Snowflakes in the air, carols everywhere, olden times and ancient rhymes of love and dreams to share."

Answers

- Joy Division, in 1980. Songwriter Ian Curtis wrote the song about his own relationship difficulties. Rolling Stone put it on their list of the 500 best songs in both 2004 and 2011.
- Robert Knight, in 1967. Numerous others have covered the song since then, including Gloria Estefan, the Four Tops and the Temptations.
- "Rubber Duck," "Pig Pen" and "Sodbuster." The 1978 film "Convoy" was based on the song. It was also used in "Grand Theft Auto V."
- "Let Her In," released in 1976.
- "Christmas Time Is Here," written by Vince Guaraldi and sung by St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in 1965. The song is most known for its use in the animated "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

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Puzzles4Kids Answer

LEASH	S	SEASHES
MEDIA	R	ADMIRE
SIGHT	E	EIGHTS
PLATE	S	PALEST
SIREN	O	NOSIER
SABLE	L	LABELS
LODGE	W	GLOWED
PELTS	A	PETALS
STARE	S	ASSERT

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MORE SUN FUN



King Richard (PG-13) — Long before Venus and Serena Williams were household names known worldwide, they were just two sisters in a family of seven living in Compton, California. Their father, Richard, was both homeschool teacher and athletic trainer. More importantly, he was the visionary providing the steady push behind the incredible athletes we know today. Will Smith gives a thoughtful performance as the Williams' patriarch, ever focused on paving a path for his daughters to hone their own greatness. Saniyya Sidney as young Venus and Demi Singleton as young Serena are each charming, convincingly athletic and talented at portraying the determined yet humble champions. (HBOMax)

A Very Boy Band Holiday! (NR) — It's OK if you missed the NKOTBSB tour, or failed to book a cabin on the New Kids Cruise. Because come Dec. 6, (almost) all of your favorite boy banders from the '80s and '90s are in one place at one time for an epic boys-travaganza of holiday delight! Dudes from *NSYNC, 98 Degrees, Boyz II Men, New Edition, New Kids on the Block and even O-Town converged to create the ultimate manly song-and-dance special to rev up your holiday spirit. After it airs on ABC, it can be viewed the next day on demand and Hulu. (Hulu)

Snoopy Presents: For Auld Lang Syne (TV-G) — Anyone under the age of 55 doesn't know life without the classic "Peanuts" cartoon TV specials. So having a brand-new holiday-themed special is a big happening. The plot of this future classic centers around three story lines: Lucy throwing herself a great New Year's Eve party, Charlie Brown attempting to successfully complete just one of his resolutions from the prior year (good grief!), and everyone being bummed because Grandma could

not visit for the holidays. It remains unknown if a tuxedo-donned Snoopy will try to kiss Lucy at the stroke of midnight, but I'm hopeful. Premieres Dec. 10. (Apple TV+)

Saturday Morning All Star Hits! (NR) — This eight-episode Netflix original series is a quirky melding of live action and animation that pays homage to the great cartoons that Gen X and Gen Y grew up watching. The creation of "Saturday Night Live" cast member Kyle Mooney and Ben Jones (of the animation studio Bento Box), this adult series promises to take viewers through the Saturday morning cartoon experience of our youth. Pour yourself a heaping bowl of sugary cereal and plop yourself on the couch ... this feels like a binge-watch selection. Premieres Dec. 10. (Netflix)



Scene from "Snoopy Presents: For Auld Lang Syne"

Life Below Zero: Northern Territories (TV-14) — The NatGeo series takes viewers to the far reaches of northernmost Canada for a fascinating lesson on how people survive without many of the conveniences most of us couldn't live without for a single day. Sub-Arctic living takes significant heartiness of mind and spirit, and surviving off the grid in such unrelenting conditions is a non-stop effort. "Nothing comes easy up here," says one resident as she hunts musk ox by herself as her eyelashes freeze over. So grab some hot tea and prepare to really appreciate your municipal utility services and corner grocer. (Disney+)

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Contract Bridge

THE GORDIAN KNOT

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 10 5
♥ J 7 2
♦ Q 10 8 5 3
♣ 6

WEST

♠ K 9 3
♥ 10 9 8 5 3
♦ A K
♣ J 7 2

EAST

♠ Q 7 6 2
♥ 6 4
♦ 7 6 2
♣ Q 9 8 4

SOUTH

♠ J 8 4
♥ A K Q
♦ J 4
♣ A K 10 5 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

The defenders' primary goal is to defeat the contract. In planning the defense, therefore, a defender should automatically reject any lie of the cards that does not allow him to achieve that objective, while at the same time seeking one that will.

Consider this case where South arrived at three notrump on the bidding shown. His jump to two notrump without a genuine spade stopper was somewhat irregular, but no better bid was available.

Declarer took the heart lead with the queen — East playing the dis-

by Steve Becker

couraging four — and led the jack of diamonds. West won, East following with the deuce, and was faced with the problem of what to do next. Had he continued with a heart, South would have had no trouble scoring 10 tricks. But West instead shifted to the king of spades, after which declarer could no longer make the contract. This extraordinary play — no other return could have stopped South from getting home safely — had a sound basis. Its purpose was to cut declarer off from dummy's long diamonds, and it succeeded admirably. Whether South won the king with the ace or ducked it (in which case West would continue spades), there would be no entry available later to cash the diamonds.

Two important ingredients went into finding the winning defense. First, East's play of the deuce on the first diamond indicated that he had an odd number of cards in the suit — most likely three (and declarer, therefore, with two). Had East held a doubleton, he would have played his higher diamond first to show an even number of diamonds.

Second, the king-of-spades lead was made in the hope that East had the queen (or South the queen doubleton). Unlikely as this was, West could make no other assumption because to do so would have amounted to a concession of the contract. West therefore did what had to be done to achieve his objective and was well-rewarded for his effort.

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Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

CRISSCROSS — "NO" WORDS

Each word will fit into one spot in the grid. Use the starting letters as a guide and fit each word into its spot. All words will be used, so cross off each one after you put it into the grid.

3 Letters

NOG
NOW

4 Letters

KNOW
NOUN
SNOW

5 Letters

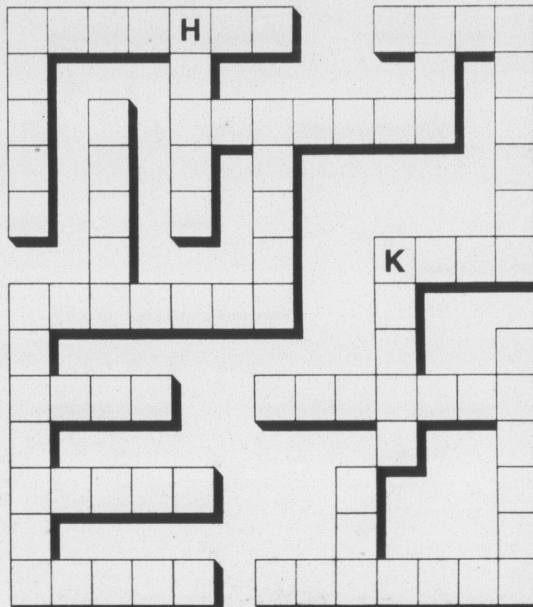
ANNOY
HONOR
KNOCK
MANOR
NOVEL
PIANO
TENOR

6 Letters

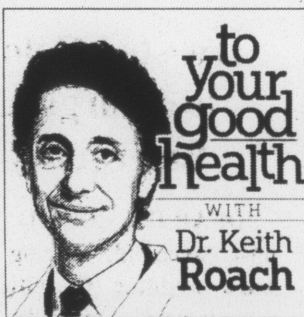
NOZZLE
WINNOW

7 Letters

ANOTHER
NOTHING
NOWHERE
SNOOZER
SYNONYM
VOLCANO



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Why Do Older Folks Have Balance Issues?

DEAR DR. ROACH: Apparently, it is common for older people to have balance issues. Do these balance problems usually stem more from muscular issues or inner ear issues? -- E.M.

ANSWER: It is often a combination of issues that lead to balance problems in older adults. Inner ear problems, where the organs of balance are located, are a major cause. However, balance problems are exacerbated by muscle weakness, vision problems, arthritis and medications, to name a few common ones.

The body has many safeguards to keep us from falling. If the balance system can't tell us our exact position in space, our eyes can, and the neurological system uses fine muscle control to keep us upright and safe. We can often do well even with one system not working properly. When multiple systems are affected, falls are more common.

Improving balance and reducing fall risk often involves multiple interventions. One is working on balance directly. This can be achieved with home exercises; group exercises, like tai chi and yoga, which have the added advantage of increasing muscle control; or with a skilled therapist such as physical or occupational therapy. Making sure vision is as good as possible and staying on top of joint, muscle and neurological conditions will help reduce fall risk.

Medications are so often the source of balance and fall problems that many medical practices (including mine) review medications at every visit to look for errors, medicines that have combined toxicities, medicines that are less safe in older adults and any medicines that might safely be discontinued.

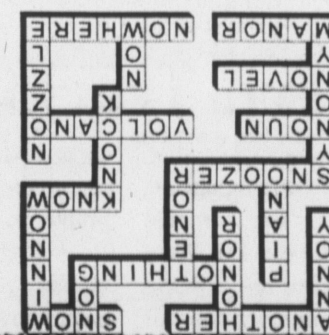
DEAR DR. ROACH: I am an 89-year-old man who has been taking tamsulosin (Flomax), 0.4 mg, for many years. I take it after supper in the evening. I get up at night three or four times to urinate. Would it be better to take the medication after lunch? I would be happy if I could reduce the number of times I get up to maybe only once or twice. -- P.J.S.

ANSWER: Tamsulosin is in the class of alpha blockers, and they relax smooth muscle, a special type of muscle found in the prostate and in blood vessels (among other places). Relaxing the smooth muscle in the prostate makes the urethra, the tube that carries the urine from the bladder and through the prostate, larger. As a result, men can empty their bladders more easily.

However, even though tamsulosin is better at relaxing smooth muscle in the prostate than in blood vessels, some men will get lightheaded upon standing when using it. This occurs especially on the first dose, and over time most men no longer have trouble. It is usually dosed at nighttime so that the lightheadedness on standing is minimized. You can take it at any time of the day (a half-hour after eating is recommended, at the same meal of the day), but I doubt it will work much better.

Many experts will use 0.8 mg in men who haven't had an ideal response and who do not have lightheadedness. I'd ask your doctor whether an increased dose might be better. Before considering another drug, be sure you avoid too many liquids at night, especially alcohol, and try voiding your bladder twice before bed to make sure it is as empty as possible.

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Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

Golden California Vegetables

Whether you're serving ham or roast beef or turkey — this is the perfect veggie dish. It goes with just about anything! Anything that versatile has to be golden, doesn't it?

- 3 cups frozen broccoli, cauliflower and carrot blend
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup water
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can evaporated fat-free milk
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes

1. In a medium saucepan, combine vegetable blend, onion and water. Cook over medium heat until vegetables are just tender. Drain well and return to saucepan.

2. In a covered jar, combine evaporated milk and flour. Shake well to combine. Pour mixture into saucepan and return to heat. Add Cheddar cheese, black pepper and parsley flakes. Mix well to combine. Continue cooking over medium heat until mixture thickens, stirring often.

3. Stir in vegetables. Continue cooking until mixture is heated through, stirring often. Makes 4 (3/4 cup) servings.
• Each serving equals: 196 calories, 4g fat, 15g protein, 25g carb., 352mg sodium, 3g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Vegetable, 1 Meat, 1/2 Fat-Free Milk, 1/2 Starch.

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- Which artist's debut album was titled "The Kick Inside"?
- Name the duo who released "Summer Nights." What soundtrack was it used in?
- What do "One Fine Day," "Sh-Boom," "Stagger Lee" and "Da Doo Ron Ron" have in common?
- Who had a debut hit with "I Only Want to Be with You"?
- Name the song that contains this lyric: "Goodbye, Papa, please pray for me, I was the black sheep of the family."

Answers

- Kate Bush, in 1978. She insisted that her self-penned "Wuthering Heights" be included instead of "James and the Cold Gun," which was being pushed on her by the record company.
- John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, in the 1978 musical film "Grease." They sang seven of the 24 tracks on the double album.
- They were dropped (!!) from the 2010 update of Rolling Stone magazine's 500 Greatest Songs list.
- Dusty Springfield, in 1963.
- "Seasons in the Sun," by Terry Jacks, in 1974. It's based on the 1961 song "Le Moribond" by Belgian singer-songwriter Jacques Brel, with lyrics rewritten in English by American poet Rod McKuen. It was offered to the Beach Boys, who declined it, and Jacks' version went on to top the charts worldwide.

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Puzzles4Kids Answer

Councillors Approve Revised Ward, Precinct Map

Cont'd From Page 17

legislative districts under the map approved in October. Those eight precincts equal more than a quarter of the city's 30 precincts.

Under the new map

passed on Monday, Precinct 1 in Ward 5 will be divided between the First and Second Norfolk Districts, which are currently represented by Reps. Bruce Ayers and Tackey Chan, respec-

tively. Crispo said having one precinct split between legislative districts is more manageable than having eight divided precincts.

"We'll get through one," she said. "It's really hard to

work through eight."

Crispo said approximately 16,500 residents will be moving between wards and precincts once the new maps come into effect, roughly the same number of residents

who would have moved between wards and precincts had the maps used in October remained in place.

All residents whose ward or precinct will change will receive a notification in the

mail prior to the September 2022 state primary election, currently the first election scheduled to occur with the new maps in place.

"They will all get notified," Crispo said.

Brighten Someone's Holiday Season With Christmas Cactus

By MELINDA MYERS

The holidays have arrived and so has the Christmas cactus. Set this favorite holiday plant in a basket, decorative pot or foil wrap and it will be ready to give as a gift or add to your holiday décor. With proper care this holiday favorite can flower for four to eight weeks and grow for decades, becoming a family heirloom handed down from one generation to the next.

The plant sold as a Christmas cactus may actually be a Thanksgiving cactus. The true Christmas cactus blooms later and has small segments with rounded edges. The Thanksgiving cactus, though often sold as the Christmas cactus, has toothed or jagged segments and typically blooms prior to Christmas.

Fortunately, their growing requirements and care are basically the same so the plants will do fine no matter the name on the label. These,

or hybrids of the two plants, flower with cool nights and long uninterrupted dark periods. A third holiday plant, the Easter cactus, sets flowers in spring as the days start to lengthen.

Christmas and Thanksgiving cacti are epiphytes that naturally grow on trees in shaded and humid forests along the coast of Brazil. They all prefer bright indirect light, high humidity and a thorough watering when the top few inches of soil begins to dry. Don't over water but don't let the soil dry completely. Water a bit more often when the plant is in bloom.

Grow them in an organic well-drained potting mix for best results. Water thoroughly and pour off the excess that collects in the saucer to avoid root rot. Reduce maintenance and improve the growing conditions with the help of gravel trays. Place a layer of pebbles, decorative stones or

marbles in the saucer or bottom of the foil wrap or basket. The pot will be elevated above any excess water that collects in the pebbles. As the water evaporates, it increases the humidity around the plant.

Keep your flowering cactus in a cool bright location to extend its bloom time. Avoid drafts of hot and cold air, moisture stress and other changes in the environment that can cause buds and flowers to drop.

Fertilize with a dilute solution of flowering houseplant fertilizer once it has finished blooming and throughout spring and summer as needed. Grow your cactus in a north-facing window or set back from an east- or west-facing window where it receives bright indirect light throughout the year. Too much sun turns the leaf segments dark red.

Don't be anxious to move these plants to a bigger container. They prefer to

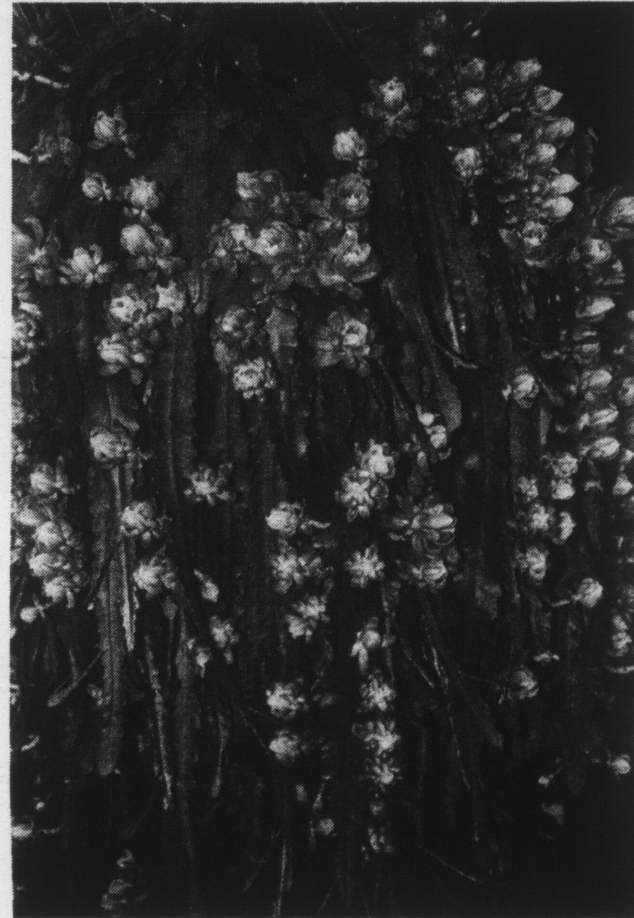
be somewhat potbound and can remain in the same pot for years.

Encourage a new flush of flowers with cooler night temperatures around 55 to 60 degrees and slightly drier soil. An uninterrupted dark period will also help promote flowering.

Start the dark treatment in early to mid October for holiday flowers. Cover the plants or move them to a location free of any artificial light, indoors or outside, each night and provide bright indirect light each day. Any interruption in the dark period from outdoor, street or reading lights can delay or prevent flowering.

Many experts find providing the same dark treatment as poinsettias, 14 hours of dark each night, promotes flowering. Michigan State University recommends providing 16 hours of total darkness and eight hours of light for at least eight days to promote flowering.

Add a Christmas cactus to your indoor plant collection and share a few with friends and family over the holidays. These easy-care flowering beauties are sure to brighten the recipient's mood and holiday décor.



CHRISTMAS CACTUS is a general name given to a small group of cacti called Schlumbergera that are native to southeastern Brazil's coastal mountains.

Photo Courtesy of MelindaMyers.com

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including The Midwest Gardener's Handbook and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nation-

ally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her web site is www.melindamyers.com.

Property Tax Hearing Dec. 13

By SCOTT JACKSON

The City Council will hold a public hearing on next year's property rates next Monday, Dec. 13.

The hearing, which will be held to determine the percentage of local tax levy to be borne by each class of real property, will begin at 6:30 p.m. that evening and it will be conducted remotely via Zoom.

Councillors are expected to set the new tax rates later Monday evening following the public hearing.

Anyone interested in watching or participating in

the hearing can do by using the Zoom app. The meeting ID is 882 5940 0170 and the passcode is qPi8FL. Those looking to participate by phone can do so by calling 929-436-2866, entering the same meeting ID and the passcode 248120.

This year, the average owner of a single-family home in Quincy saw their property tax bill increase by \$154 to \$6,280, a change of 2.5 percent.

In a recent interview, Mayor Thomas Koch said it would be too soon to say what increase the average

single-family homeowner would be facing on their tax bill in the new year.

"There's a complicated formula on how you get there. The municipal finance team is working very hard on it," Koch said. "Hopefully we'll be in good shape."

Any increase, he added, "would be far more reasonable than the communities around us."

In Weymouth, for instance, the tax bill for an average single-family home will rise by \$357 next year to \$5,356, an increase of 7.1 percent.

George Burke Donates To Charities

Quincy attorney George Burke announces he recently donated to more than 20 organizations, educational institutions and charities.

They are:

The Emily Dickinson Museum, Interfaith Social Services, University of Massachusetts (scholarships), Quincy College, The Salvation Army, Boston College

Law School, Quincy Community Action Programs, Thayer Academy, Father Bill's and MainSpring, Quincy Historical Society, Boy Scouts of America, South Shore YMCA, University of Maine, First Baptist Church of Wollaston, Sisters of Saint Benedict, Parish of Saint Ann, DOVE, Inc., Friends of the Unborn,

Georgetown Law School, Maria Droste Services and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Burke said for the past 19 years he has been giving his own retirement distribution to many charities that help the less fortunate. He said he has donated over \$2 million to the charities for numerous years.

BBB Study: Online Shopping Scams Flourish On Social Media During Pandemic

Cont'd From Page 27

review websites claim to be independent but are funded by scammers. Look at the bad reviews first. These are more likely to be real and can help identify scams.

• Search for contact information: Use caution if the site does not have a U.S. or Canadian phone number, or uses a Gmail or Yahoo business email address.

• Keep a record of what you ordered: Make a note of the website where you ordered goods. Take a screenshot of the item ordered, in case the website disappears or you receive an item that differs from what was advertised.

• Pay by credit card: Credit cards often provide more protection against

fraud than other payment methods.

Report online shopping fraud to:

• Better Business Bureau - file a complaint at BBB.org or report a scam at BBB.org/scamtracker.

• Federal Trade Commission (FTC) - file a complaint at reportfraud.ftc.gov or call 877-FTC-Help.

• National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center - report intellectual property and counterfeiting violations to iprcenter.gov/referral/view.

• Internet Crime Complaint enter (IC3) - file a complaint at ic3.gov/complaint.

• Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre - file a report at antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca or call 1-888-495-

8501.

• Facebook - report ads that violate Facebook's policies by clicking the *** next to an ad to go to facebook.com/business/help.

• Instagram - report copyright infringement or other policy violations at help.instagram.com.

• Amazon - report suspicious activities and webpages at amazon.com.

• Google - report scams at google.com.

• PayPal - call (888) 221-1161 to speak with a live person instead of using its automated system if you receive an item that is not as advertised.

• Your credit card company - Call the phone number on the back of the credit card to report the fraud and request your money back.

BBB Scam Alert: Tracking Code Trick Costs Online Shoppers

Cont'd From Page 22

what consumers don't know when it comes to processing payments. Don't make a purchase from a shady seller assuming the purchase will

be protected no matter what.

• **Before buying online, confirm the site has real contact information.** Make sure the seller has a working phone number and ad-

dress on the website, so you can contact them in case of problems.

• **Don't wait too long to file a dispute.** Scammers know that PayPal and

credit cards have time limits for disputes. They often try to delay the process long enough so that shoppers miss the window.

• **If the price seems too**

good to be true, there's probably something wrong. Be wary if the item is selling for significantly lower than what's been advertised elsewhere.

• **Review BBB online shopping tips.** Many online purchase scams use similar tactics. See BBB.org/ShoppingOnline for more advice.

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Menorah Lighting Ceremony Celebrates Chanukah



RABBI, DR. ALFRED BENJAMIN (at podium) offered remarks and lead the singing of several celebratory songs at a Menorah Lighting Ceremony Dec. 2 outside the James R. McIntyre Government Center and Hancock Adams Common. Mayor Thomas Koch (left) holds an umbrella for Rabbi Benjamin as a light drizzle fell. Dec. 2 marked the fifth day of Chanukah also known as the "Festival of Lights." In his remarks, Rabbi Benjamin noted Dec. 2 is a very significant date in Jewish history as the first synagogue in the United States was dedicated Dec. 2, 1763 in Newport, R.I. The synagogue, known as the Touro Synagogue, was named for Isaac Touro, its first officiating rabbi. Touro became the center of a thriving Jewish community. Chanukah is a Jewish festival that reaffirms the ideals of Judaism and commemorates in particular the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem by the lighting of candles on each day of the festival. Rabbi Benjamin is the spiritual leader and religious teacher of Congregation Beth Shalom of the Blue Hills located in Milton.

Quincy Sun Photos/Robert Bosworth



RABBI, DR. ALFRED BENJAMIN was the guest speaker at a Menorah Lighting ceremony Dec. 2 at the Hancock-Adams Common. Rabbi Benjamin is the spiritual leader and religious teacher of Congregation Beth Shalom of the Blue Hills located in Milton.



CHILDREN PLAYED with dreidels and were offered gelt or chocolate gold coins after the Menorah lighting ceremony Dec. 2 at Hancock-Adams Common. Gelt refers to money given as presents during the Jewish festival of Chanukah. It is typically given to children and sometimes teachers, often in conjunction with the game of Dreidel.

Eversource, BBB Offer Ways To Avoid Becoming A Victim This Winter

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pre-paid debit cards (such as Green Dot MoneyPak, Vanilla or Reloadit prepaid cards) and never request customers meet at a payment center, such as a Walmart or

Big Y grocery store to make the payment.

- Never provide personal financial or account information to any unsolicited person on the phone, at the door or online, even if they

seem legitimate.

- Customers who are scheduled for disconnection due to nonpayment receive written notice that includes information on how to maintain their service.

- Customers can verify they are speaking with an Eversource representative by asking for some basic information about their account – like the name on the account, the account ad-

dress, and the exact past due balance.

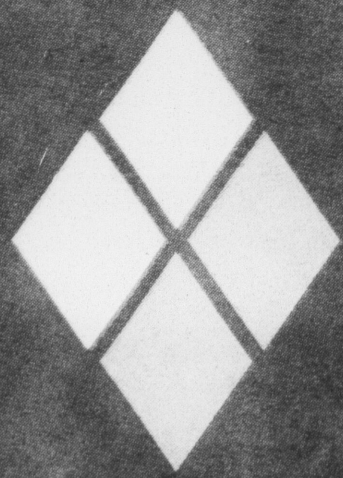
Eversource urges anyone who has doubts about the legitimacy of a call, visit or an offer, to contact the com-

pany directly at 1-800-592-2000. For more information on how to protect personal information and avoid being a victim of utility scams visit Eversource.com.

Fire And Ice At Tree Lighting Ceremony



FIRE DANCER Lis Knights from Tyngsboro entertains a crowd at the recent Turning on the Lights ceremony at Hancock-Adams Common. At right is Snow Princess Liz Arruda from Smithfield, R.I. with a young admirer at the Nov. 27 ceremony. The performers are members of Cirque de Light.
Quincy Sun Photos/Robert Bosworth



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